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THE JERUSALEM POST

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 THE JERUSALEM POST CHANNEL

VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19724

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1997 • ELUL 9, 5757 • 9 JAMAD AWWAL 1418

NIS 4.50 (incl. VAT) NIS 3.35

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Albright: Security is crux of agenda

Furor over Weizman remarks

By **BATSHEVA TSUR** and **SARAH HONIG**

Top officials expressed anger yesterday after President Ezer Weizman was quoted as telling US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright that she should put pressure on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to get the peace process moving.

Weizman, who has previously clashed with Netanyahu over peace policies, did not deny making the remarks which were quoted by State Department spokesman James Rubin.

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Albright, Weizman visit hospitalized terror victims, Page 3

"All I said has been said before," he said last night. "The US believes that we are partners, and if two other partners [Israel and the Palestinians] do not find the way together, what should the third partner do?"

Still, he added that Rubin, who briefed a pool of American reporters on the president's breakfast meeting with Albright, "had put the wrong emphasis" on his remarks.

Rubin quoted Weizman as saying: "The US should be prepared to pressure Bibi to finish the second stage," referring to the Oslo Accords.

Rubin added his own comment: "[I] thought that was a remarkable statement from the Israeli president."

According to Rubin, Weizman also said that "Israel should not use economic pressure against the Palestinians," and told Albright that "it is dangerous to have hungry neighbors."

See **WEIZMAN**, Page 2

High-tech company hopes to woo yeshiva students

By **JENNIFER FRIEDLIN**

If Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman is right about yeshiva students wanting to get out of the classroom and into the workforce, the high-tech industry may have reason to rejoice.

According to George Morgenstern, chairman of Decision Systems Israel, yeshiva students make excellent programmers and, to prove his point, he has offered to hire and train 25 of them.

"In programming you need patience, a willingness to go into detail, and the concentration to make sure you don't your I's and crossed your T's and to go over it again and again," he said. "It's the same thing with Talmud [study]."

Morgenstern, whose US-based company, International Data Operations, has hired about 200 yeshiva students, said it takes six months to train them to become proficient software programmers, compared to one to two years for high school graduates.

The matching of yeshiva students with jobs in the industry would be



PM Binyamin Netanyahu and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright gesture during yesterday's news conference. Behind them are FM David Levy (center) and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. (Reuters)

PM's staff upbeat

By **SARAH HONIG**

There was an extremely upbeat mood in the Prime Minister's Office following his meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

A senior source said that none of the dire predictions of US pressure had come to pass and instead Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu encountered "more understanding than we have ever known."

The source thoroughly discounted press reports that a dialogue of the deaf had been conducted, with Netanyahu repeatedly stressing security, while Albright constantly

retorted with questions.

None of this happened, several sources said.

"The masochistic preoccupation with alleged US pressure and presumed lack of understanding for our position is simply revolting," Netanyahu's communications adviser David Bar-Ilan said.

Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh agreed: "Anyone who attended the talks can wholeheartedly verify that there is positively no room for such malicious interpretations... It would be best not to engage in the Israeli national sport of waiting for, perhaps expecting, pressure."

See **PM**, Page 2

Netanyahu: We uncovered terrorist cells in territories

By **SARAH HONIG**

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright unequivocally backed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's insistence on reciprocity in the peace process, at their joint press conference yesterday.

She announced that "security is at the center of my agenda" and that Netanyahu "is right - the process cannot succeed without reciprocity."

Netanyahu revealed that "after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing, we uncovered additional terrorist cells in the areas under Israeli control and additional plans for more terror - all directed from Palestinian Authority areas. These plans were neutralized."

The two seemed to agree on nearly every point, save for Albright's suggestion that the "interim agreements - carried out in a mutually responsible way - be married to an accelerated final status process."

They held longer-than-scheduled talks, which Netanyahu described as "most cordial and most productive." Albright agreed, adding that they had "very good discussions."

She said she had arrived at "a very difficult moment. Negotiations have stalled and Israelis and Palestinians are locked in a crisis of

confidence.... The terrorist war waged against Israelis and peace itself has created a severe challenge.... The enemies of peace are purposefully and relentlessly attacking Israelis, and so the war against terrorism, waged to support the pact of peace, must also be purposeful and relentless....

"Partners in pursuit of peace have to expect a total, sustained and

Arafat to meet Albright amid protests, Page 2
Left, Right hold demos for secretary, Page 3

comprehensive effort to preempt terror, to combat it and to delegitimize those in their midst who associate themselves with it."

Albright stated that her message to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat would be clear: Cooperation to eradicate terrorism must be "serious, sustained, and effective.... The PA must take unilateral action to root out the terrorist infrastructure."

She reiterated that "there is no moral equivalence between killing people and building houses. It's

simply not possible to address political issues seriously in a climate of intimidation and terrorism.... Dealing with the problem of terrorism, is the *sine qua non* of moving forward."

Asked about Arafat's charges that Israel is responsible for the recent terror outrages, she suggested that he "be realistic in dealing with the infrastructure of the terror organizations and not try to obfuscate."

She insisted that there is "no issue of putting pressure on anybody," and said that "while it's very evident that the US is a key player in Mideast peace process... the leaders of Israel and the Palestinians have to make the hard decisions."

The only hint of discord came when Albright spoke of Israel's "responsibility to shape an environment which will give the peace process a chance to succeed. This means Israel should be taking steps from action that undermines confidence. It's very difficult to create a serious atmosphere for negotiations when unilateral actions are taken that prejudice or preempt issues reserved for permanent status negotiations."

See **ALBRIGHT**, Page 2

Dear Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright

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Arafat plans to greet secretary with protests in West Bank

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NABES

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is to meet US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright this morning, amid a wave of protests meant to underline Palestinian discontent with the Netanyahu government his aides have organized around the West Bank.

Palestinian officials said demonstrations are planned in eastern Jerusalem, Kalkilya, Ramallah, Nablus, and Tulkarm. The Voice of Palestine said the demonstrations are to protest the closure of the territories.

"The closure is an Israeli provocation," Planning and International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath said. "The closure hurts Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian Authority and anything that hurts Mr. Arafat and the PA is a blow to the peace process."

The calls for demonstrations came after PA officials heard Albright's address upon her arrival. The officials said they were stunned by the warmth of the secretary's greetings and her

pledge to support Israel economically and militarily.

"If Albright plans on focusing her visit on the security issues, then she will fail," Bir Zeit University Prof. Ali Jirbawi said. "We followed the speech she made in Israel, and we see that [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu is trying to keep her agenda on only one issue."

Yesterday, 150 people demonstrating in Nablus burned the US flag and photos of Albright, Palestinian sources said.

But by afternoon, PA officials were sounding more upbeat, after reports were broadcast that President Ezer Weizman had called on the Clinton administration to press Netanyahu to ensure the continuation of the peace process. The officials had said that Arafat had been sending messages to Weizman and to Labor Party MKs to express support for the Palestinian position.

"We hope that this trip will end with the return of the peace process on the right track," Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said.

Hours later, PA officials again

sounded disheartened - this time by Albright's news conference with Netanyahu - in which she rejected a link between terrorism and Israel's settlement policy.

PA Secretary-General Tayeb Abdul-Rahim said he was disappointed by Albright's statements and that at her meeting today with Arafat, Arafat would present intelligence information that proved that the suicide bombers of the Mahaneh Yehuda and Rehov Ben-Yehuda attacks came from abroad.

It is reported that Arafat told MK Yossi Beilin they came from Jordan. Abdul-Rahim added that Israeli action against the Palestinians, particularly the closure, amounts to a form of terrorism.

PA officials were in contact with US diplomats throughout the day to determine the agenda of the talks. By late afternoon, PA representatives said they still were not told of the agenda.

Arafat is scheduled to meet Albright in Ramallah at 11 a.m. Ninety minutes later, both are expected to hold a news confer-

ence. Another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow in Ramallah.

PA officials acknowledged that they are trying to provide the security gestures sought by Washington to divert pressure toward Israel. They said they now believe they have done their share with their cooperation in the investigation of the Jerusalem suicide bombings and the arrests of Hamas activists.

PA Attorney-General Fayez Abu Rahme told a news conference in Gaza that police have arrested 35 Hamas activists.

"They will eventually be brought to court and will be given their legal rights," he said.

Hamas activists said the number of arrests has gone beyond 50. They add that IDF units also have stepped up arrests of suspected Islamic fundamentalists in Areas A and B.

Abu Rahme said, however, that the PA will not abide by an Israeli demand for the extradition of Palestinian Police chief Brig.-Gen. Ghazi Jabali, accused of organizing shooting attacks on Jewish settlers in the Nablus area this summer.

ANALYSIS

A 'getting acquainted' first visit for Albright

By BARRY RUBIN

The most important fact about US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's Middle East visit is that it's her first one.

Rather than rescuing the peace process, she will be familiarizing herself with the issues, people, and policy positions with which she has had almost no previous direct contact. Some weeks will be needed after Albright returns to home for making a plan to get Israel and the Palestinian Authority back to the peace table.

The debate on who Albright will pressure is as meaningless as expecting instant results from this trip. US policy favors a two-stage process, a point reinforced at Albright's news conference.

First, the PA must show it can stop terrorism so Israel can believe PA Chairman Yasser Arafat is meeting commitments.

Then, and only then, will Israel be urged to make concessions over Har Homa's construction, a Palestinian airport and harbor, West Bank/Gaza safe passage, a second Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, or other issues.

In short, whatever Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is asked to do is conditioned on the PA successfully fulfilling his most important demand. This should not make the prime minister too unhappy. It is also another step requiring time, to test Arafat's intentions and capability.

After years of Israeli arguments, the United States has accepted the idea that only the local parties can

make negotiations work. US policy can provide suggestions, or bridging proposals - but not pressure or comprehensive plans.

Of course, this also means the United States must work with existing leaders. Whatever her preferences, Albright cannot change Netanyahu into Rabin, or Arafat into King Hussein. She can neither transform Israel's election results or Palestinian political culture - and she won't even try to do so.

Ironically, the most important outcome of Albright's visit and US engagement could be that it gives Netanyahu and Arafat a good excuse to get the peace process back on track. They can attribute their own new-found flexibility to US pledges and hint at concessions wrong from their adversary by American pressure or persuasion.

While Albright recognized gains would not come "quickly or easily" and said she could only "help the parties" make progress, much of the US opinion-making elite still does not understand this situation.

The Washington Post proposed that Arafat be induced to act against terrorism through immediate, unconditional US support for a Palestinian state. The New York Times warned that Albright must get the sides to act or the peace process and US position in the region would quickly decline. But these ideas will not find a place in Clinton Administration policy.

True, a visit by a US secretary of state can change Israeli and PA policies on the peace process - but only if the two sides want to change.

Albright to Weizman: We support war on terror

By ELI WOHLGELERENTER

The first stop on Madeleine Albright's whirlwind 50-hour visit to Israel was breakfast with President Ezer Weizman, and the US secretary of state wasted no time setting the tone.

"We are with you in the battle against terror and the struggle for security," she said. "We are with you in demanding that those who orchestrated the murder of innocent people in the market place and the mall be tracked down and punished. We are with you in your insistence that the Palestinian Authority fulfill the responsibilities and obligations that it has undertaken."

"And we are with you in the determination that those who commit terror will not succeed now, or ever, in preventing the possibilities of peace between Israel and the Palestinians and throughout the Middle East from becoming a reality."

Albright spoke from a prepared text before her meeting with Weizman, to which she went directly from the airport, accompanied by Foreign Minister David Levy.

Upon her arrival at 6 a.m., Albright was met at the airport by MKs and activists from the Meretz Party, who held torches and signs that read, "Peace, we miss you."

In their meeting, Weizman told Albright the peace process needs strong leaders who can make decisions the way former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat and former prime minister Menachem Begin did.

A senior US official told reporters after their meeting that Weizman said Israel should not use economic pressure against the Palestinians.

In her public statement at the President's House, Albright said she would be meeting with Netanyahu and other leaders in a bid for mutual responsibility and a renewed sense of partnership.

"But I also want to emphasize at the outset of my visit, the deep bonds of friendship and understanding that makes the US-Israeli relationship unlike any other," she said. "From the moment [then US] president [Harry] Truman recognized the State of Israel 11 minutes after she was born, our countries have shared a love of freedom, a hunger for justice, a commitment to human dignity and a desire for peace."

Stressing the issue of security, Albright said, "Terrorists can create grief, but they cannot defeat hope. And I am confident the people of this region, of all faiths and backgrounds, will not allow terrorists to define or limit the future. Although we are very much focused this week on the question of security, we also know that the path to real security is not separable from the path to real peace. One goes with the other, neither can go alone."

"According to Psalms, 'Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.' It has been a long night, and the joyous morning of true, lasting secure peace has not brightened the land."



US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright tours Yad Vashem yesterday, accompanied by Yashem Director Avner Shalev. (Isaac Harezi)

Albright visits Yad Vashem

By ELI WOHLGELERENTER

The visit to Yad Vashem yesterday evening by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was a diplomatic ceremony devoid of any public declaration of personal or family meaning.

The secretary of state cried during the recitation of "El Malei Rahamin" at the memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.

But her two-minute statement following a visit to the children's memorial touched only on the universality of the Holocaust, without mentioning its Jewish content.

"The history remembered here is at odds with all we would like to believe about ourselves and about our world," Albright said.

"It is a history of unbearable sadness, unrelieved suffering, and unbelievable cruelty... We must never allow ourselves to be at peace with the Holocaust, or to believe we have somehow mastered its lessons."

Albright's visit, lasting just over an hour, began with a walk down the Avenue of the Righteous, where she stopped at the tree memorializing Oskar Schindler.

The secretary of state was then led through the museum by Yad Vashem director, Avner Shalev. Albright told Shalev that she has been researching her Jewish roots, which were first confirmed in February in an investigative story by The Washington Post. She also told Shalev, accord-

ing to a source at the museum, that she is further researching the cause of death of her maternal grandmother, Ruzena Spieglova, which has not been established.

"In this museum," Albright said in her prepared remarks, "in every face, in every picture, there is a warning: May God grant us the wisdom and the will to recognize evil whenever we see it, to oppose intolerance whenever we confront it, to fight hate whenever we come into contact with it, and to remember in the name of all who are memorialized here, that no one's blood is less precious than our own. I pay tribute to the people of Israel for remembering at Yad Vashem. I know that I will never forget my visit."

WEIZMAN

Continued from Page 1

He also told her the US needs to "bring heads together."

Rubin also described Weizman's attitude toward the Palestinians as "noticeably neutral," saying that Weizman did not criticize Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat or Hamas.

However, Weizman was quoted as coming down hard on Netanyahu. "Weizman told her that unfortunately Netanyahu continues to look down on Arafat and should not be treating him this way."

Weizman added that Menachem Begin had had no intention of giving up settlements before he went to Camp David, a source said. Weizman was a defense minister in Begin's cabinet at the time, and closely involved in the negotiations.

Weizman said that President Bill Clinton could study this model and perhaps do something similar, "because it is a shame to lose all that has been achieved so far." Albright listened attentively, nodding from time to time, but did not comment, the source added.

Albright invited Weizman to visit Washington on October 4. The cabinet would have to authorize the trip.

While Netanyahu refused to comment publicly on Weizman's remarks, officials in his office said they are angry. Coalition leaders called on Weizman to deny making the comments or resign.

A senior source in Netanyahu's office said that "Weizman had amassed a reputation for bizarre outbursts over the decades and had beset many prime ministers. But this time he is seen as clearly having crossed a very thick red line of what a president must not do in a parliamentary system."

An adviser said that "besides the president's personal foolishness and volatility, it is more than unfortunate that these remarks took the center stage, rather than the broad agreements which emerged between the Israeli and American interlocutors on the first day of the secretary of state's visit."

He also described Weizman as having "become a problem since no one knows when he is going to shoot from the hip, what ammunition he will use, and what his target may be."

Likud MK Uzi Landau accused Weizman of "interfering crudely in the functions of a prime minister. In our system, it is the prime minister who is elected to carry out certain policies, not the president. It is unthinkable that he would offer advice to the US on how to act against what the elected government perceives as the best interests of the country."

Gesher MK Michael Kleiner called on Weizman to "resign and go back to Caesarea."

MK Nissan Slomiansky of the National Religious Party suggested a law which would "limit the president's meddling in politics and affairs of state."

The Third Way's MK Alexander Lubotzky reminded Weizman that "The Second Temple fell after Jews invited the Romans to arbitrate their internal disagreements."

PM

Continued from Page 1

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Foreign Minister David Levy, Ambassador to the US Eliahu Ben-Elissar, and the prime minister's advisers attended part of the meeting. Later Netanyahu and Albright conducted a tele-a-tele.

Albright heard briefings by OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon and General Security Service head Ami Ayalon. Both produced evidence of what they described as "the cancer of terrorism," saying it had spread since the Palestinian Authority's creation. Albright was described as having been visibly impressed by the material.

Several participants in the first phase of the talks said the Albright agreed that stamping out terror is a prerequisite for further progress in the negotiating process. She also agreed with the view that were that prerequisite to be met, accelerated

final status talks should follow.

The only disagreements reported were that she did not want to see the interim agreements and the Oslo process discarded. But the sources said there were no sharp exchanges, mostly due to the realization that the immediate problem is security and that it is far from being solved.

Albright repeated that she does not expect a single visit to break the deadlock. She finished off her list of appointments yesterday with a short meeting with Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak.

She heard his ideas for a solution which would involve a deal between Israel and the US on what steps the PA would be obliged to take to combat terrorism. Barak also hotly dismissed President Ezer Weizman's reported suggestions that the US ought to pressure Israel.

Today, Albright is to meet with families of MIAs, to be followed by a breakfast with Leah Rabin. Then she is to lay a wreath at Yitzhak Rabin's grave.

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Ilana Artman
on the death of her brother
MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN

ALBRIGHT

Continued from Page 1

Netanyahu said "the fact that we were in control in these areas [A and B] enabled us to stop terrorism planned in PA-controlled areas. But that effort is missing in PA territory, which has become a collection of bases and safe havens for terrorists. Before we are asked to cede more land, we have the right to demand implementation of commitments in the areas already

controlled by the PA. If the PA doesn't undertake this vigorous effort to fight terrorism and dismantle their infrastructure, it's going to be impossible to continue the process."

Netanyahu called the recent arrests of extremists by the PA "a show, instead of a substantive, sweeping effort required."

The closure, he stressed, "is enforced only to prevent terrorists from reaching their intended victims." Netanyahu also said he had released a third of the money ear-

marked for the PA "and the reward we got a week later was Arafat's embraces and kisses for Hamas leaders. My intention is not to starve Palestinians, but our concern is not only not to have hungry Palestinians but also not to have dead Israelis."

It is added: Albright thinks there is a good chance of renewed talks with Syria, Foreign Minister David Levy said last night on Channel 1. "Perhaps this is the right time to act," he quoted her as saying. "We have to work on this."

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Albright



Members of Women in Green demonstrate in Jerusalem yesterday against the Oslo Accords. (Brian Hendler)

ANALYSIS

Baker's example worth following

By HERB KEINON

Israeli academics Yair Hirschfeld and Ron Pundak often have been described as "architects of Oslo" since they opened a channel of dialogue with the Palestinians that culminated in the signing of the Oslo agreements four years ago.

Yesterday the two men were watching from the sidelines, hoping that US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will ensure that the "structure" they helped construct does not collapse.

"This visit is a watershed," said Hirschfeld, a professor of Middle Eastern history at Haifa University. "We are very close to a mutual, radical escalation on both sides. The situation is enormously dangerous. It is of great historical importance that she succeed."

Success will be measured by whether or not Albright is able to get both sides to agree on a formula for restarting the process.

"She has a clear program," Hirschfeld said, "that says there must be a 100 percent effort by the Palestinians to fight terror, and that there must be an Israeli understanding to hold up on all settlement activities for six months."

In addition, Hirschfeld said, this formula calls for a six-month postponement of the second stage of IDF redeployment, which the Palestinians say was to have taken place earlier this week. During this six-month period, intensive negotiations on a final status agreement are to take place.

The signatories to Oslo pledged three things, Hirschfeld said: that Israel has a right to security; that the Palestinians have a right to economic development; and that there be ongoing negotiations.

None of these pledges are being honored, he said. "Albright has to put things back on track," he said. "She has to be tough, has to make it clear that she represents a superpower interested in the continuation of the process. The Oslo agreement cannot die. Like Camp David and the Madrid Conference, it is a layer in an ongoing process."

Pundak, a fellow at Hebrew University's Truman Institute, said that if Oslo can't die, then, at the least, "the game needs to be restructured."

"My understanding of the messages sent before the trip is that Albright means business," he said. "The distrust between the sides is deep, and we have reached a new low ebb. Only a third party, such as the Americans, can do something."

This "something," said Pundak, who along with Hirschfeld is a confidant of Labor MK Yossi Beilin, only can be done if Albright adopts the aggressive style of former secretary of state James Baker, as opposed to the more low-key approach of her predecessor Warren Christopher.

"What is needed is to call a spade a spade, and talk in direct terms in order to convince both sides to do things beyond just saying that the other side is responsible for one thing or the other," Pundak said.

Albright, according to Pundak, could make an enormous contribution if she gets both sides to recognize the cost of failure.

Pundak said Albright's current trip brings to mind the visit Baker made in 1991 prior to the Madrid conference. The burning diplomatic issues at that time were whether the Palestinians would be represented at the talks by their own delegation, who would be a part of that delegation and whether Israel would have veto power over it.

"Baker, only through very bold involvement, was able to convince the two sides to agree on a formula," Pundak said.

The formula was that the Palestinians would be part of a Jordanian team, without a representative from Jerusalem, without PLO participation and without an Israeli veto.

"Baker put the American strength behind him and told [then-prime minister Yitzhak] Shamir and the Palestinians what the US thought was viable, and what the US would like to see happen," Pundak said. "He applied realistic, intelligent pressure on both sides, without mincing words."

Exactly, according to "the architects of Oslo" what is needed now.

Left, Right hold demos for secretary

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Demonstrations for and against the peace process were held at various locations yesterday, in a public effort to show US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright what people on the street are thinking.

It began with her arrival at the airport, where Peace Now activists were there to greet her.

"All our efforts were lost," said Hagit Ya'ari, the movement's spokeswoman, explaining that Albright was whisked off to Jerusalem shortly after her arrival.

Holding banners declaring "Madeleine Save Peace - Now," Ya'ari said the group would continue its demonstrations, including one planned this morning outside the Laromme Hotel in Jerusalem, where Albright is staying.

Ya'ari was told that no more than 100 activists could take part in the gathering, but she said that the movement had received numerous requests to take part.

"On Saturday night, we will hold an enormous rally in Tel Aviv that will include all the left-wing movements. After all, it is the fourth anniversary marking the Oslo Accords."

On the other side were the

Women in Green, who held demonstrations in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

"We had 400 people in Jerusalem," said Nadia Matar, head of the group. "and it was large enough that the police had to let us march in the street."

The group marched from downtown to the US Consulate on Rehov Agron, where speakers included Matar, MK Benny Elon (Moleket), Yosef Meodelevitch, and Joyce Boim, mother of David Boim, who was killed in a terrorist attack in Beit El 16 months ago.

"We all had the same message: Stop Oslo now," Matar said. "You cannot make peace with a mass murderer like [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat, just like you couldn't with Hitler. Don't go down in history as another appeaser of evil."

Following the speeches, Kaddish was said for those killed in last week's Rehov Ben-Yehuda bombing, and a shofar-blowing ceremony was held "to open her Jewish heart."

Near the Prime Minister's Residence, a table was set up by members of the religious peace movement, Oz V'Shalom, and Netivot Shalom, who handed out bumper stickers and held up signs saying, "Peace is the war against terror."

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright paid a visit yesterday morning to the victims of terrorist bombings, offering words of solace to the wounded while promising not to embrace Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"You're very brave and I admire you," Albright said, blowing a kiss to Ruth Sultan, who was burned in last week's attack on Rehov Ben-Yehuda. Sultan told Albright that she had been shopping for a wedding present when the bomb went off.

Lying next to Sultan at Hadassah-University Hospital, Mount Scopus, was Dr. Sherri Wise, a dentist from Winnipeg, Canada, whose face was peeling from burns.

"Both of you have sparkling eyes, and burns can't hide that," Albright said.

Turning to Sultan's mother, Rachel, Albright said: "As a mother, I know you are having the hardest time watching this. I have three daughters of my own."

Daniel Miller, a 19-year-old yeshiva student who had arrived in Israel a day before the blast, was recovering from shrapnel wounds to his ankles and legs, and from glass splinters that penetrated his left eye.

He presented Albright with a letter urging her to be tough with the Palestinians, and told her that "when you go to embrace Arafat," to please remember the bombing victims.

Albright, somewhat taken aback, said, "I don't intend to embrace Arafat."

Albright was accompanied on her rounds by President Ezer Weizman,



US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visits Ruth Sultan, who was burned in last week's Rehov Ben-Yehuda terror attack, in Hadassah-University Hospital, Mount Scopus, yesterday morning. To Albright's right is President Ezer Weizman, and to her left are hospital director Dr. Jacques Michel and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza. (Yitzhak Eliazar/Scoop 80)

hospital director Dr. Jacques Michel, and Beth Wohlgelemer, national executive director of Hadassah. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza was also part of the entourage.

At one point, Weizman brought over the doctor who had treated him for his broken hip. "You'll pardon the expression, he screwed my leg,"

he told Albright. Albright also visited with bombing victims from July's attack in Mahaneh Yehuda, as well as with victims from the bus bombings of 1995 and 1996, who are still being rehabilitated. One was an Arab boy whose leg had been blown off. Another was Yael Lahav, whose face

had been completely rebuilt in the course of two years. Weizman took Albright to the 6th floor for a view of Jerusalem, and explained the history of Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus, how it was encircled by enemy territory between 1948 and 1967. Asked how she felt after her 25-

minute visit, Albright said: "You can see in their eyes that they are ready for a new life here, to live new lives here, and they are working very hard to rehabilitate themselves. And it is up to us to try to create a situation where they can then be comfortable and be in a place that is secure and at peace."

Settlers want US to change its policy

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Settlement leaders called on US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to change the traditional US policy of pressuring Israel to adopt measures that are hostile to the majority of its population.

While viewing Albright's visit as a positive step, the settlers claim that their expectations are not great.

"On the fourth anniversary of the Oslo Accords, it is impossible not to recognize their colossal failure," said Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The leaders are concerned over a possible construction freeze which Tayar said will hamper the communities' natural growth. "We reject any impression that our existence is considered an obstacle

to peace," she said. The US, she said, should realize that the PLO has not changed its strategic goal of the destruction of Israel and thus Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat will not fight terror. "He is an autocratic ruler, insensitive to democratic values, has embezzled public funds, and has constantly violated his obligations under the Oslo Accords."

Settlement leaders, said Tayar, hope that Albright will recognize the necessity of allowing natural growth in the existing Jewish settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

In addition, Albright should not ignore Israel's right to maintain areas for internal and external security purposes, and its natural resources, such as water.

However, she said, Arab villages should also be allowed to grow naturally, as long as their presence does

not jeopardize Israel's security. "Peace is not achieved by surrendering to evil nor to its agents," she added. "We have been made to pay a terrific price because of past political blunders."

Beefed-up security

Security forces already on high alert since the bombings on Rehov Ben-Yehuda last week were reinforced with additional troops yesterday for US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit.

"Since last week's terrorist attack hundreds of police and border police have been brought into the capital. Additional forces were brought in to enhance security during Albright's visit, to safeguard her hotel and the routes she takes during her stay," Jerusalem Police Spokesman Shmuel Ben Rubi said yesterday. Margot Dudkevitch

Laromme pulls out all the stops

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Bill Clinton slept there; Al Gore slept there; Warren Christopher slept there; and now it can be said that Madeleine Albright has slept in the Presidential Suite at the Laromme Jerusalem.

So what did the Laromme do to welcome her? "What didn't we do?" replied public relations manager Anat Adi-Atias.

First of all there was the bed linen - nothing less than white silk. Then there were the chic Laromme slippers and a white bathrobe with Albright's name embroidered on it in gold. In the bathroom was a large selection of beauty products from the Dead Sea - suns mud.

"We don't give out nud," said Adi-Atias. There were six gigantic flower arrangements, and an enormous bowl of exotic fruits. There were also bowls of exotic nuts.

Albright had not asked for any special foods, but the hotel - aware that she has a passion for fresh fruit juices - made sure that there is plenty of freshly squeezed or processed orange, grapefruit, carrot and apple juice on hand.

There had been a special request for no hard liquor, but the hotel management felt that it would not be doing the right thing by local winners if it

failed to put a few bottles of top quality Israeli wines in Albright's suite.

Knowing that Albright would be having some meetings in her suite, the pastry chef outdid himself in preparing petits fours in dark and white chocolate.

In addition to all this, the hotel provided Albright with her own personalized stationery which reads: "From the desk of the Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Laromme Jerusalem Hotel."

Of course not all visitors to the hotel get to see the Presidential Suite, but proof of Albright's presence is found on the ground floor near the entrance.

When Albright, accompanied by President Ezer Weizman and US Ambassador Martin Indyk, arrived at around 9:15 a.m., before they went to Hadassah-University Hospital, Mount Scopus, to visit some of the people injured in last week's bombing, she signed the graffiti wall, which also contains the signatures of the Russian and Norwegian foreign ministers, the Russian interior minister, the director of the FBI, and of course US peace envoy Dennis Ross, who has stayed at the hotel many times.

The Albright entourage occupies 200 rooms.

What "process" are we talking about?

The charge leveled at Yasser Arafat that he has not fulfilled his undertakings is a gross misstatement. He has in fact fulfilled and continues step by step to fulfill the overwhelming majority of his commitments. On January 30, 1996, at the Grand Hotel in Stockholm, he addressed a dinner attended by 40 Arab diplomats from various countries and reiterated in stark terms the core substance of these commitments and revealed how he proposed to implement them.

Reaffirming the promise of the unchanged Palestinian Covenant, he pronounced his basic commitment: "To eliminate the State of Israel and establish a purely Palestinian State."

He revealed his mode of operation: "We will make life unbearable for Jews by psychological warfare and population explosion... We will concentrate our efforts on splitting Israel psychologically into two camps... within five years we will have six to seven million Arabs living on the West Bank and in Jerusalem."

The record of his psychological warfare since Oslo - and as it was before Oslo - is open for all to see: to terrorize the population, by killing Jews in major explosions, as in Hadera and Afula, repeatedly as in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, by individual stabbings, shootings and stone throwing all over the country. In all, more than 250 Jews have been killed by Palestinian Arabs since Arafat signed the Oslo Peace Agreement.

Then comes the other side of the psychological warfare: hulling the enemy. Signing the Oslo Agreement was as much a part of the psychological warfare as the killing of Jews. Arafat even boasted about his use of this tactic. In one of his earlier recorded speeches, he recalled to an Arab audience in Johannesburg how the Prophet Mohammed wiped out the unsuspecting Khoreish Tribe after he had signed a peace treaty with them. There is no contradiction. On the contrary, there is a straight line between the signing at Oslo, the unrelenting campaign of vilification and demonization of Israel in speech and in print - and the explosions at Mahaneh Yehuda and the Ben Yehuda Mall. An additional element in Arafat's Stockholm briefing was his appeal to the Arab diplomats - who would report his words to their respective Arab governments. He said: "We now need all the help we can get from you in our battle for a united Palestine and total Arab-Moslem domination."

The phenomenal success of arch-terrorist and Jihad-monger Arafat, in using the Oslo Agreement as a one-sided instrument for achieving his stated objectives, stems from the incredible assumption by his victims and dupes that he is a reformed character.

To the acceptance of this assumption, the American State Department has made a considerable contribution. It has turned a deaf ear to Arafat's threats and boasts, it has directed an indulgent eye to his murderous actions and it has kept a closed mind to their dire consequences. It has consistently pressed Israel to be more forthcoming in accommodating itself to this policy. Who can deny that this is a policy that cannot be continued? The United States should in all conscience institute a new policy: to declare, and to urge Israel to declare, that the Oslo Agreement has been destroyed by Arafat.

(Communicated)

Shmuel Katz

NEWS

in brief

Petah Tikva man killed in underworld hit

David Attas, 27, a known criminal from Petah Tikva, was killed outside his in-law's home in Bnei Brak on Tuesday night. According to police, who said they had warned him there was a contract out on his life, Attas and his wife drove up to her parents' house. His wife dropped him off in front, then went to park. Two men were waiting for him and one shot him in the head. They then fled. *Itim*

Four-year-old burns to death in family car

Chen Ma'atuf, a four-year-old from Moshav Baretet near Lod, burned to death yesterday morning in his family's car, which was parked near his home, apparently after he lit a match while seated inside, police said.

The local police chief, Dep.-Cmdr. Benny Sagiv, said the boy's mother was unaware that he had gone out of the house in his pajamas. A neighbor who saw the flames and helped put them out, noticed the boy's body inside only after the fire was extinguished. Paramedics said they were unable to even try and resuscitate Ma'atuf because he suffered third-degree burns all over his body. *Itim*

Boy killed in work accident

Mohammed Abu Abeid, 12, of Yatta, near Hebron, was killed yesterday in a work accident on Moshav Luzit, near Beit Shemesh.

The boy, who worked with his father, was cleaning a machine which sifts watermelon seeds when another worker, who didn't realize he was working on the machine, turned it on. The boy was struck by the machine's turning drum. *Itim*

Histadrut slowing protests today

The Histadrut is slowing down its industrial action against the government's budget cuts today, a Histadrut spokesman said last night. The intention is to conduct a widespread protest on Sunday, he added.

Some 80,000 local authority staff took part in industrial action yesterday in municipalities throughout the country. *David Harris*

Civil Service Commission clears Bazak

The Civil Service Commission cleared Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak yesterday of any punishable wrongdoing when he received a special discount for a stay at the Neptune Hotel in Eilat.

The inquiry was launched in July, following media reports that Bazak received unlawful benefits. *David Harris*

Custodian-general publishes property list

The Custodian-General's office published for the first time yesterday a list of 10,000 people whose property is being administered by the state on grounds that they have disappeared.

The property is valued at about NIS 1.5 billion, and includes about 1,000 apartments, 3,200 orchards, parcels of land and wells.

The list was published to enable family members to try and claim the property by proving a blood relationship to the deceased.

Officials in the Custodian-General's office believe most people on the list have died, and that it would take several months before the state could release any of the property. *Itim*

Acre Festival controversy heats up

By HELEN KAYE

Unless a solution is found to the financial impasse regarding the transfer of funds to the Acre Festival, the participants and organizers of the festival accused officials at both the Arts and Culture Administration and the Education Ministry of deliberately withholding an already approved NIS 1.5 million. While some NIS 450,000 has been transferred, the festival needs

This decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the festival's participants in Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

At a stormy press conference on Monday, the participants and organizers of the festival accused officials at both the Arts and Culture Administration and the Education Ministry of deliberately withholding an already approved NIS 1.5 million. While some NIS 450,000 has been transferred, the festival needs

an immediate NIS 750,000.

Festival producer Gad Oron and artistic director Itzik Weingarten last night sent a letter to the Arts and Culture Administration Council, which is meeting in emergency session at 11 a.m. today. The letter states that "unless we get an official answer of some kind within 72 hours, we will deduce that the festival matters to nobody, and will infer from that that the festival is effectively cancelled."

Meanwhile, the ministry seems to be passing the buck. Hammer's office confirmed the receipt of the letter from the workers' committees of the Haifa, Carmel, Habimah, and Beersheba theaters urging him to resolve the crisis. It also confirmed the receipt of a faxed letter from the secretaries of the Histadrut Actors Union and the Israel Union of Performing Artists requesting an

urgent meeting.

Festival producer Gad Oron said there has been no response from Hammer, and asked whether he would meet with the artists' representatives. Hammer's office said: "The minister has turned the whole matter over to Dr. Dan Ronnen, (currently acting head of the Arts and Culture Administration)." At press time, Ronnen could not be reached for comment.



Postal Cooperation

The visiting head of the Belgian Postal Authority, Francine Wagenstock, poses yesterday with Postal Authority director-general Moshe Tery (right) and Postal Authority chairman, Shmuel Lahman. *(Israel Sun)*

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Albright visit

Madeleine Albright's visit differs from those of previous US secretaries of state, writes *Yediot Aharonot's* Dov Ganchofsky.

While many of Albright's predecessors served as mediators in the Middle East, Albright seems more directly involved. Her determination to directly influence public opinion and 'bypass' leaders, is an indication of this shift, Ganchofsky says.

Chemi Shalev of *Ma'ariv* also writes that Albright is focusing on

the 'power of the people,' and that she may gain the unprecedented backing of public opinion in both Israel and Palestinian self-rule areas.

"The two publics are united in their frustration with their leaders' failure to advance the peace process and their inability to prevent suffering," Shalev says.

He adds that "perhaps Albright is not a magician, but she may be able to pull a rabbit out of her hat."

Akiva Eldor of *Ha'aretz* asserts that if Albright wants to use public opinion to sway leaders, she must first prove she can be trusted.

Deep budget cuts

The government's proposed budget cuts are also a focus of press commentary. Sever Plotzker, business editor of *Yediot Aharonot* justifies the proposals drawn up by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, but warns that they may not win approval.

"The problem is political. Through their extreme opposition to the 1998 budget, coalition factions are providing a vociferous and forceful expression to their dissatisfaction with government management. The MKs firing at Neeman are actually aiming at (Prime Minister) Benjamin Netanyahu," Plotzker writes.

Gabi Kessler of *Ma'ariv* focuses on the damage that the prospective cuts can do. He states that the middle class will bear the brunt of the spending reductions, yet economists say that the middle class is actually the motor behind economic growth. "They, the ones who need to be the apple of the government's eye - the government that longs for growth - are turned into the budget's milking cow," Kessler says.

Yosef Lapid of *Ma'ariv* says the MKs are aware that cuts are needed, yet each "protects his small and fertile plot by using touching, national, socialist slogans." He criticizes MKs who would rather fight with Neeman than try to reduce the squandering and bureaucracy in their own offices.

Negotiating with Hizbullah

In light of the escalating violence in southern Lebanon, Arieh Gronik of *Ma'ariv* calls on Israelis to relate to Hizbullah as a political organization and open negotiations.

"The significance of a movement like Hizbullah is not in the damage it inflicts, but in the attention that it draws," Gronik adds.

Writing in *Yediot Aharonot* Elyakim Haetzni draws parallels between Hizbullah and the Palestinians. He claims that the public can't grasp that their peace deal with the Palestinians is imaginary, and that what is true of the Palestinians is also true of relations with Hizbullah.

No to unity government

Again proposals have been put on the agenda to forge a national unity government.

Yosef Lapid of *Ma'ariv* writes that it is difficult to find two ministers who see eye to eye these days.

"There is no point in assembling a national unity where each side pulls in a different direction... The problem is that even if two leaders find a common basis, the attempt to establish a united government will disintegrate into quarrels over how to divide up the ministries," Lapid says.

Vilna Gaon remembered as the 'pride of Lithuania'

By ISABELLA GENOR

VILNIUS, Lithuania - The Vilna Gaon was hailed yesterday as "the pride of Lithuania, not only of the Jews," at a conference marking 200 years since the death of the preeminent scholar.

The three-day conference is being boycotted by the Simon Wiesenthal Center and groups of Holocaust survivors, in anger against Lithuania's failure to try alleged Nazi war criminals.

Survivor groups maintain that Lithuania has also failed to own up to the role of many of its own citizens in helping the Nazis kill 94 percent of Lithuania's 220,000 Jews during World War II.

In a keynote speech in Lithuania's Parliament or Seimas, former president and Seimas chairman Vitautas Landsbergis praised the Gaon and suggested that his lessons against hatred and vengeance be included in school textbooks.

Haifa's chief rabbi, Shear Yeshuv Cohen, noted the deep missings his delegation felt in coming to Lithuania, "where every step is painful, as the ground is soaked with Jewish blood."

"Had the Gaon lived then, they would have murdered him too" in the Holocaust, Cohen said.

He also called on Lithuania to try Nazi criminals, reconstruct Jewish shrines and return looted property.

Cohen received a standing ovation. Still, his appearance drew an enraged response from the Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel, which urged the chief rabbiniate to remove him from office.

Israel's ambassador, Oded Ben-Hur, was heckled by parliament members as he reminded Lithuania's President Algirdas Brazauskas of his "courageous and important" speech in the Knesset, where he accepted responsibility and promised historic justice would be done.

"Israel and its citizens are watching your steps. Prove that you are keeping your promise," Ben-Hur said.

He also alleged that anti-Semitism was a persisting problem in Lithuania.

"Lithuania must still settle accounts with itself," he said.

In Israel, the Wiesenthal Center said that "as long as the murderers of the descendants of the Gaon and his family continue to live unprosecuted in Lithuania, Vilnius is not the appropriate site to commemorate the Gaon."

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Gore wasn't told donations' purpose - Democrat tells Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) - Vice President Al Gore was not told that some donations he solicited went into a Democratic Party account that prompted a Justice Department review, a party official testified yesterday.

Joseph E. Sandler, general counsel of the Democratic National Committee, said that Gore "would have no reason whatsoever to be aware of the DNC - after the fact and without the vice president's knowledge" - deposited money in the account.

Testifying at a Senate hearing, Sandler also said calls made by Gore from his White House office "were entirely legal and appropriate." Sandler said he came to this conclusion after he reviewed a federal law prohibiting political solicitations on federal property.

The statute "simply does not apply to solicitations of persons who are not federal employees and who are not in any federal building when the solicitation is made," he told the Governmental Affairs Committee.

Sandler, in an earlier deposition to committee investigators, testified that he never gave fund-raiser John Huang the extensive training in campaign law that the party's finance direc-

tor told Congress Huang had received.

Sandler said he told investigators that no DNC official ever asked him to give special training to Huang about the legal restrictions on raising money.

"Did Richard Sullivan ever ask you to give John Huang any sort of specialized or individualized training or briefing regarding the legal guidelines for fund-raising at the DNC?" he was asked.

"No," Sandler replied in the deposition taken last month.

Sandler also was expected to be questioned about 46 telephone calls that Gore made from his White House office to raise money for the DNC.

Sandler described in the deposition the extensive review that DNC, White House and Clinton-Gore campaign lawyers conducted to determine whether Gore's phone calls yielded any "hard-money" donations that the party can use to help candidates directly.

Gore has acknowledged raising \$600,000 in "soft-money donations," which is supposed to be used for party-building activities and not to benefit specific candidates. Attorney-General

Janet Reno says soft money is not covered by a law prohibiting fund-raising calls from a government office.

But the disclosure last week that the DNC converted \$120,000 of the money Gore raised to so-called hard-money donations prompted the Justice Department to consider seeking an independent counsel to investigate whether the vice president broke the solicitation law.

The lawyers concluded Gore "must have believed and understood that he was soliciting non-federal (soft) money," Sandler said.

The *New York Times* reported yesterday that some of the converted donations placed 62 large party contributors over the \$25,000 ceiling on annual contributions that any one donor can make to federal candidates.

And it quoted some of them as saying they were either not told about the transfers or were ignored when they tried to get them undone. Sandler has acknowledged that donors were sometimes not advised of the transfers.

Sandler's assertion that Huang received no specialized training contradicts testimony in July by Sullivan.

Huang to be schooled by Sandler in the complexities of campaign-finance law because "I was concerned that John knew the rule."

The DNC returned nearly half the \$3.4 million Huang raised because of concerns that the money came from illegal or improper sources.

Huang, who spearheaded DNC efforts to raise money from Asian-Americans, is the focus of a Justice Department investigation.

Sandler was questioned about Huang's decision to return two \$12,500 checks a month after they were given at a large fund-raiser for Asian-Americans.

Sandler testified that while reviewing with Huang some of the checks collected at the event, Huang "seemed to understand the rules applicable to fund-raising for the DNC, in particular, in connection with issues of citizenship and legality of contributions."

"You don't recall that the return of these checks prompted any further investigation or inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the contributions?"

"No," Sandler told committee counsel Sandy Mattice.

Presidents juggle free-trade millstones

Messy business, real democracy, as Mexicans are finding out. Messy business, free trade agreements, as President Bill Clinton is finding out.

Mexico to the average American (or Canadian), and the images remain unbalanced government, economic crises, massive corruption, crime, drugs, rebellion and poverty.

Yes, America has some of those problems too - but that is not the overriding perception. Undoubtedly Mexico and Colombia and Venezuela and Bolivia have some fine people and institutions - but that's not the overriding perception either.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

It was hard to watch a gathering crowd of masked and whooping Mexican Indians converging on the capital of Oaxaca state yesterday without wondering what NAFTA means to them.

This was no trade delegation - this was 2,000 members and supporters of the Zapatista National Liberation Army en route to Mexico City, where they are expected to arrive tomorrow in search of Indian rights, democratic and economic reforms and promised political autonomy.

"If they do not respect the accord, Mexico will return to a new political crisis of great consequences," one of the Zapatista leaders said.

Return to political crisis? That might come as a surprise to those who didn't know Mexico had ever left political crisis since the rebels first hit the headlines with their famous New Year uprising of 1994.

As the Indians gathered down south, in faraway Washington yesterday was the day Clinton was supposed to rally Congress once again under the free trade banner that once flew so proudly over his administration.

If the Mexican government is still trying to recover from the Indian rebellion of '94, Clinton is still trying to recover from the NAFTA agreement of '93 - which tied the unlikely commercial knot between the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Amid much grassroots American scorn over NAFTA, Clinton now wants to zoom ("fast track" is the political buzzword) down the path of free-trade deals with the rest of Latin America.

Oops! If Mexico's foreign image has not yet translated into a progressive Euro-style one enjoyed by say Spain, what chance is there that other Latin images will be changed by free marketry?

Nice list Stereotype maybe, but say

good American jobs shipped overseas. No one's writing a NAFTA anthem like the Europeans got when they were still a common market. For sure it would not be an Ode to Joy - maybe a March of the White Elephants. The latest opinion poll showed 43 percent of Americans think NAFTA has been negative, 28% see it as positive. Presumably the rest don't even know it still exists.

Real trade While Clinton is set to battle his Congress to extend free trade, down Mexico-way President Ernesto Zedillo has been trying to persuade his Congress to battle against free trade. Free trade in corruption and drugs, that is.

"Narcotics trafficking is a grave threat to Mexicans," Zedillo said in his annual State of the Union address to the Mexican Congress last week. Getting a taste for the first time of what Clinton suffers up North, Zedillo faces a Congress of his own that for the first time in 68 years is not controlled by his Institutional Revolutionary Party, which was the fist behind the rubber-stamp. Zedillo this week fired the leader of the PRI responsible for the party's worst defeat in history.

A Mexico expert in Washington was quoted on one news service as saying the PRI leaders "look like a bunch of deer caught in the headlights." Maybe Mexico and the United States have something in common after all. Did anyone see Clinton blinking?

Prosecutor: Diana's driver had drugs and drink

By TOM HENEGHAN

PARIS (Reuters) - Princess Diana's chauffeur had both drugs and drink in his blood on the fatal evening when he drove her, himself and her companion Dodi Al Fayed to their deaths, Paris prosecutors said yesterday.

In a rare official statement, the prosecutors' office said blood tests showed he had taken fluoxetine - an anti-depressant best known under the name Prozac - and a sedative called tiapride that inhibits agitated or aggressive behavior.

It confirmed that new tests showed Paul, who was the deputy security chief at the Al Fayed's Ritz Hotel, had alcohol levels three times the legal limit - enough to have downed more than a bottle and a half of wine before setting off on the fatal drive.

Prozac, the world's top-selling anti-depressant, is sold with a clear warning against driving after taking it. Doctors caution patients against drinking when using either drug.

The prosecutors' statement simply said: "Drivers are urged to exercise prudence in the utilization of both medications."

With three series of tests now done on Paul's blood, his body could now be buried, judicial sources said.

The funeral was put off last Saturday so more laboratory tests could be conducted, and the church in Paul's hometown, Lorient in Brittany, where it was to take place did not know when it would be rescheduled.

News of the latest test results came as a Paris daily reported Diana's last words were "leave me alone, leave me alone." The ambulance took an hour to make the 10 km drive to the hospital where she was declared dead, Le Parisien said.

Bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the crash, is recovering steadily from his injuries in her fatal car crash but still unable to speak, the hospital treating him said yesterday.

Rees-Jones, 29, was probably saved by his seat belt and airbag but much of his face was crushed in by the impact and required surgery to rebuild it.

Burgess Meredith dies at 89

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Burgess Meredith, versatile, raspy-voiced actor whose film roles over 60 years included the faded hero in "Winterset," the tragic caretaker in "Of Mice and Men" and the crusty boxing manager in "Rocky," has died. He was 89.

Meredith died Tuesday morning at his home in Malibu, his son, Jonathan, said. He had suffered from melanoma, Alzheimer's disease and other complications of old age, his son said.



Presidential welcome Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro greets Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz in Rome yesterday. The Saudi prince is in Italy on a four-day official visit.

Police stick to 'accident' line on Biko's death

By DOUGLAS HAMILTON

PORT ELIZABETH (Reuters) - Naked, in chains and unconscious, black leader Steve Biko was slung into the back of a land-rover in this port city 20 years ago and taken on a long journey to his death on September 12, 1977.

Police who tortured and beat him and now seek amnesty and forgiveness in return for the truth, stuck to their story yesterday that it was an accident. They said it was brought about by Biko's wild aggression which forced five policemen to defend themselves.

A lawyer for the Biko family who took part in the original inquest in 1978 - now confirmed as a state whitewash - ridiculed the claim, saying the police were simply trying to patch up their past lies to make them less incredible.

Biko's murder robbed blacks of a courageous and articulate visionary who saw the horizons of their ultimate freedom in self-awareness, education and pride.

Perhaps more than any other atrocity, it alerted the world to how far white supremacists were prepared to go to deny human rights to blacks, and so spurred international sanctions that helped end apartheid.

At a crucial hearing yesterday in Port Elizabeth, the new democratic and non-racial South Africa of President Nelson Mandela relived the murder of Biko, seeking through a process of confession and reconciliation to purge the past.

But this vital bid to get at the truth was immediately plunged into controversy when one of the five policemen who admitted involvement in Biko's death, and now seek pardon

for it, repeated a story that many consider an absurd fabrication.

Harold Snyman, an ex-security police major, who led Biko's interrogation, was testifying before a hearing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a paralegal body intended to heal the wounds of South Africa's apartheid past by exposing the truth about its murders and tortures.

Snyman said Biko had been deprived of sleep while in detention to soften him up prior to an intensive interrogation intended to make him confess to fomenting anti-government violence and to divulge secrets of the liberation struggle.

Standing naked and prevented from sitting down, Biko had become aggressive, Snyman said.

"He 'went wild' and attacked his questioners, sparking a struggle which ended when he 'fell and hit his head hard against the wall'," Snyman added.

Biko became disoriented, his speech was slurred and he showed no response. The interrogation, half-an-hour old, was ended.

Snyman said he was unsure whether Biko was faking and so ordered him to be left handcuffed, manacled and chained to the bars of the cell.

Asked if it was ever the intention to kill Biko, Snyman said: "No, Your Honor. It was never the intention." Biko's family opposes amnesty for the five policemen involved and is pressing for them to be prosecuted.

When their lawyer, George Bizos asked Snyman if he believed Biko's death came about in a "police action carried out in good faith" the 69-year-old former policeman replied yes.

Asked if he meant four policemen

had acted in "self-defense" against one man, he again replied in the affirmative.

Snyman said he now believed his actions were wrong and he begged forgiveness.

He said Biko enjoyed "enormous regard among masses" and was considered one of the most important black activists in the country at a time when Mandela and other liberation leaders were locked in prison.

Biko's arrest was carried out in defense of the official policy of racial separation applied by the National Party government of the day and supported by Snyman's own Dutch Reformed Church, the policeman said.

Critically injured, Biko was driven over 1,000 kms. to the Pretoria prison where he died.

The truth commission can grant amnesty to his killers if it accepts that they have provided a full and truthful confession for an act that is clearly linked to the extreme politics of the period.

It was unclear whether describing Biko's death as an accident brought about by his own aggression would satisfy the "truth" requirement. Bizos said no society would entertain a claim that torturing a helpless, naked detainee to the point where he died could be considered a politically-motivated act.

Snyman admitted that the authorities tried to cover up the facts of Biko's death to avert a "negative impact which could affect foreign investments."

"It had to be managed," he said, admitting that the date of Biko's injuries was incorrectly entered in police records at the suggestion of a superior officer.

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Seats up
Vilna Grace remembered as the 'pride of Lithuania'



DLI
New York City Democrats, in an effort to elect a candidate to challenge Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani, on Tuesday split their vote between a street-smart black activist and a Jewish woman who has been a fixture of liberal Manhattan politics for 25 years.

NYC Democrats split on mayoral choice

By MARILYN HENRY

New York City Democrats, in an effort to elect a candidate to challenge Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani, on Tuesday split their vote between a street-smart black activist and a Jewish woman who has been a fixture of liberal Manhattan politics for 25 years.

Tuesday's Democratic primary forced a runoff on September 23 between Ruth Messinger and Rev. Al Sharpton. With a well-financed campaign chest, Messinger got 39 percent of the vote. Sharpton, a media-savvy community activist who often is derided as a hustler, raised virtually no funds but got 32 percent of the vote.

Only 400,000 of the 2,246,987 registered Democrats voted, according to ows accounts. The victor in the runoff will face Giuliani in November.

The lethargic Democratic campaign against the peripatetic Giuliani was all but overlooked last week as New Yorkers were absorbed to the

death of Princess Diana.

The primary issue that galvanized New York last month revolved around charges that Brooklyn police beat and sodomized a Haitian immigrant, Abner Louima. While every New York official has denounced police brutality, as a campaign issue, it clearly belonged to Sharpton.

Clinton's insurers play safe

The Paula Jones suit may be more challenging than the president admits

By PETER BAKER and LORRAINE ADAM

WASHINGTON — An out-of-court financial settlement in Paula Corbin Jones's sexual-harassment lawsuit is increasingly unlikely because the insurance companies that have paid President Clinton's bills are pulling out of the case, representatives of both sides said Tuesday.

Two insurance firms have borne the cost of Clinton's defense because of indemnity policies he bought years ago and would have financed any settlement to Jones had the two sides agreed on one. But technical changes in the case have prompted one of the companies to withdraw, and the other is poised to back out soon as well.

"If there is a final departure of insurance money, obviously that makes a settlement almost impossible," said Robert S. Bennett, Clinton's chief attorney. "The president isn't going to pay any money [to Jones] out of his own pocket."

The loss of insurance coverage amounts to a costly blow to Clinton. Already saddled with more than \$2.25 million in legal bills from the ongoing Whitewater investigation, he now faces the prospect of at least an additional \$1 million in expenses to Bennett's firm over the next nine months for the harassment case. A legal defense trust established on his behalf has raised a fraction of his obligations.

Moreover, absent a settlement,

both sides in the case will begin gathering evidence in the next few months for the scheduled May trial. That process will open Clinton to an embarrassing range of questions raised in the lawsuit, which alleges that he dropped his trousers and propositioned Jones in a Little Rock hotel room when he was governor of Arkansas.

Until now, Clinton's \$1.5 million in legal bills in the Jones case has been paid by State Farm Insurance Cos. and Pacific Indemnity, a subsidiary of Chubb Group Insurance. Clinton was covered by personal liability umbrella policies commonly offered on a standard homeowner's policy.

The involvement of the firms has provoked heated debate over whether they were extending special treatment to Clinton in allowing him to choose his own lawyer and in accepting the president's late filing of his claim. But the companies began bailing out after the president's lawyers persuaded a court last month to dismiss a defamation claim in Jones's suit that was specifically covered.

State Farm disclosed Monday that it has now ended its financial support, and Chubb has signaled that it plans to do so too. Clinton's lawyers are fighting what several specialists consider a long-shot battle to persuade Chubb to continue its coverage.

Lawyers for both sides were keenly aware of the financial ramifications of the August 22 ruling, and several people involved said settlement talks intensified in hopes

of crafting a deal before the insurers backed out.

Those discussions collapsed last week amid bitter turmoil within the Jones camp. Although no formal offer was on the table, the two sides had discussed a settlement framework that would have paid her \$700,000 and offered a general statement of regret by Clinton without an admission of misconduct.

Jones rejected the proposal and held out for a full apology, climaxing months of tension with her lawyers, Gilbert K. Davis and Joseph Cammarata, who then asked to quit the case because of conflicts with their client.

US District Judge Susan Webber Wright, presiding over the suit in Little Rock, granted the motion by Davis and Cammarata to withdraw. As for Clinton's upcoming legal bills, Bennett has offered to try the case without charge, but cannot do so because his firm, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, does lobbying work, and free legal service would be akin to a conflict of interest. Instead, White House officials said that Clinton will have to wait until he leaves office to repay Bennett.

The liability coverage was first revealed in February 1996, when Clinton's legal defense fund was overwhelmed by mounting costs from the Whitewater probe. Clinton had complained that his legal bills were depleting his savings. But Clinton had the two policies covering him, which already had paid nearly \$900,000 of Bennett's legal bills.

Chubb has not disclosed details about its coverage of Clinton, which it said was in force when the alleged harassment of Jones took place.

Normally, a policyholder is required to notify an insurance company of a lawsuit immediately. But Bennett has said he did not file his first claim under Clinton's policies until June 1995.

Authorities in the field also question why the companies would agree to pay Bennett's fees, which exceed \$400 an hour.

Boone said, "We pay fees dependent upon the type of lawsuit we're dealing with. We realized early on that this would go to the Supreme Court, and you can't hire an attorney that does fender-bender cases to argue before the Supreme Court." By the summer of 1995, Bennett's legal bills surpassed \$1 million.

Around the same time, a friend of Clinton's in the insurance business in Arkansas "happened to be looking at the first couple's insurance situation" and discovered that they had personal liability umbrella coverage.

The type of coverage Clinton had is designed not only to pay for judgments or lawsuit settlements but also for the defense of that lawsuit. Clinton's policies each placed a \$1 million cap on the amount that could be paid for a settlement or judgment. But it is uniform throughout the industry and in case law that there is no cap on the amount, an insurance company must pay for a policyholder's defense.

There are limits, experts say. Companies exempt certain kinds of behavior from coverage, among them sexual harassment. Although Clinton's State Farm policy does not specifically exempt sexual harassment, it does exempt "intentional acts." The courts have considered sexual harassment an intentional tort. (The Washington Post)



Pilgrimage to Fujimoro

Juanito Poma performs a native dance as he walks to the government palace in Lima to ask President Fujimori for benefits for his hometown. Some 300 people walked 500 kilometers over the last week to seek presidential help.

(AP)

book department

Jerusalem Post Offerings Rosh Hashana, 1997



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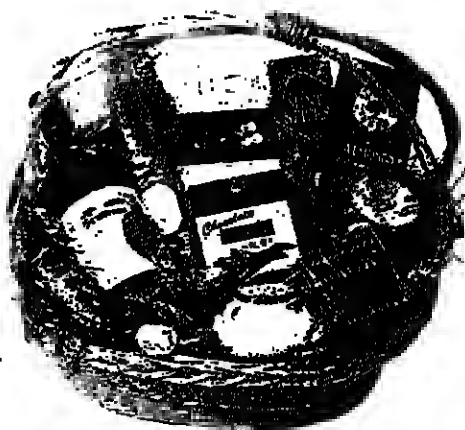
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Rude morning, Vietnam

By ADRIAN EDWARDS

HO CHI MINH CITY — Vietnam's military has a good track record for tackling problems. Since 1945, its armed forces have successfully engaged the troops of four of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Now, the military may be about to get its hands on a new problem — Vietnam's reforms. And not everyone's happy.

So far, 1997 has not been a kind year for Vietnam. After more than a decade of successful *Doi Moi* (renovation) policies, the communist country has run into problems, some serious.

In addition to pressing financial and economic difficulties, a rising tide of crime, social vice and corruption, plus complications in its relations with China

and Cambodia, there's also been worrying unrest in at least one northern province.

"The problems in the Red River Delta are not a simple matter," says leading Communist Party thinker Tran Bach Dang in a statement which could easily apply to many of the troubles Hanoi is now facing. "We can explain them, but it's not something we can easily tackle."

As the pressures grow, so, too, do demands for decisive action and change. The consternation of some of the military element in Vietnam's leadership is being looked to as a possible answer. For more than a year now military figures have occupied key positions in the elite ruling politburo. Three of the five posts in the inner standing board, or "superpolitburo," belong to men from a security-related background.

Analysts say their efforts, coupled with those of others in the security apparatus, including Interior Minister Le Minh Hoang, have contributed to a shake-up of sectors of the establishment previously seen as immune to outside probing.

For evidence they point to a series of show trials earlier this year in which government officials, businessmen, police and others were sentenced to death on drug or graft charges, and say military intelligence had a hand in bringing each case to light.

Over the next week or so, the highly sensitive issue of who will lead the country next will be discussed at meetings ahead of a September 20 gathering of the National Assembly. Among the changes will be the appointment of successors to President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

On previous occasions, the post of president has gone to a member of the military. Whether that happens this month remains unclear. But for months now Le Kha Phieu, a soft-featured military political commissar, has been viewed as a front-runner for either that position or for the

post of Communist Party chief. Analysts say his influence is already sufficiently strong to ensure him a position close to the helm of the nation even without a leadership post to his name.

Foreign diplomats and academics are divided over Phieu's merits as a leadership figure. But they concede that in Vietnam the military enjoys significant popular backing. In addition to historical legitimacy, amid recent public concern over corruption, the army is seen as being morally clean.

Given the circumstances, Phieu — a relatively unknown conservative — could have public appeal. "In order to develop, each country needs strict order and discipline," says a southern intellectual. "The military is more behind the reform process than you might think. I believe they will look very soon for a bold move to push Vietnam forward."

While it may be upright and unimpaired by the excesses of official graft, critics say the idea that a leadership dominated by the military might be better placed to solve Vietnam's problems is based on wishful thinking.

They also have differing views on how bad the current situation is, and whether a new kind of solution for the problems of a reforming communist state is in fact required. "If you ask me, we are faced with crisis, yes we are," says Dang. "But it's a crisis of growth, and not a crisis of recession. The situation is evolving every day and we are dealing with it. We are not a North Korea." Dang also hints at moves which might hinder the military from taking the country's top post, by saying that Do Muoi will confront expectations by remaining in his job until 2001, when the next national party congress is due.

"The upcoming reshuffle will definitely be a new start. But we will have to wait to 2001 to see a basic change in the leadership," he says. Whether Vietnam's current difficulties are just growing pains or more fundamental flaws is subject to opinion. All sides in power say they want the reform process to continue, but what conservative groups, including the military, also appear to want is tighter controls, especially on the open-door policy.

For some, that amounts to putting the cork back in the reforms bottle. For others, it means building a firmer base for Vietnam's future. Critics argue simply that coupling the economics of the free market with the politics of control means that sooner or later something will have to give.

"Just look at the new draft stock exchange laws," says a southern lawyer. "There's nothing in them about protecting the investor. It's all about controls. Suspicion is institutionalized in Vietnam. Without a fundamental shift in attitude you won't see any real change." (Reuters)



The Orient

Meet de Klerk's heir

By LYNNE DUKE

JOHANNESBURG — When former president Frederik W. de Klerk stepped down last month as leader of the party that created South Africa's system of white-minority rule, he said he wanted to free the National Party from the baggage he had carried as the country's last apartheid-era leader.

But Tuesday, the party elected as its new leader a 37-year-old party insider who has acknowledged he once ran a college group that was a front for apartheid-era military intelligence.

The African National Congress, the ruling party since the country's first all-races elections three years ago, immediately seized upon the installation of Marthinus van Schalkwyk as a sign that the National Party is not creating a new role for itself under majority rule and still has skeletons in its closet.

The ANC, led by President Nelson Mandela, called on the new party leader to cooperate with the nation's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in revealing more of his involvement with past covert military activities.

Van Schalkwyk, who had been executive director of the party, pledged Tuesday to work to close the nation's historic divides, saying "our origins are less important than our destiny."

Less well known nationally than three provincial party leaders who were contenders for the post, van Schalkwyk rose through party ranks as a youth leader in a group called Jengkrag, or Youth Power.

He told the *Mail and Guardian* newspaper here recently that he knew both his salary and Jengkrag's funding came from the apartheid government's military intelligence. But he insisted his group was doing productive work in making contacts with anti-apartheid youth groups during the volatile 1980s.

Van Schalkwyk is taking the helm of a party that has been unable to shake off its history as the creator of apartheid — even



'Our origins are less important than our destiny.'
— Marthinus van Schalkwyk

apartheid regimes by ushering in the reforms that ultimately ended a half-century of National Party rule. For his efforts, de Klerk shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize with Mandela.

In the watershed 1994 elections, his National Party received 20 percent of the vote and was included in Mandela's unity government.

But the party was an uneasy junior partner in a government dominated by the ANC, and de Klerk pulled his party out of the coalition last year to become a true parliamentary opposition. A recent survey showed the party's support has dropped as low as 12 percent.

It remains unclear whether the party will continue with its court challenge to the truth commission.

Under de Klerk, the party had initiated a class action against the commission as a result of statements by its members questioning de Klerk's honesty in his presentations to the panel.

Retired Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the commission chairman, publicly raised the issue after de Klerk claimed he had had no knowledge of extra-judicial killings and other abuses that were hallmarks of the apartheid era. The truth commission has said that records from cabinet meetings at which de Klerk was present in the mid-1980s suggest he knew of plans to "eliminate" anti-apartheid figures.

De Klerk formally retired from Parliament Tuesday with a speech that included an apology. "It was from this podium that I and other members of my party cleaned the slate by the repeal of all forms of discriminatory legislation," he said.

"Of course, I also look back upon mistakes and lost chances, actions and statements that hurt others, and upon executive decisions, as minister and president, which emerged later not to have been the best.

"For that, I say I am sorry. To everyone I failed in my political career, I offer my apologies."

(The Washington Post)



Allegations against Winnie

Former British MP, Emma Nicholson speaks in Capetown on Tuesday at the launch of Fred Bridgland's book 'Katz's Journey', which alleges that Winnie Mandela was involved in criminal activities, including the death of young activists in the townships. (AP)

Colin Bundy has his Wits about him

By GILBERT A. LEWTHWAITE

JOHANNESBURG — The University of Witwatersrand, the renowned seat of white liberalism during the apartheid years, is about to take a major step toward adapting to black-majority rule.

Next year, for the first time in the university's 75-year history, it is expected that most of the students will be black. Many of them, coming from communities with poor high schools, will require remedial education. Most will need financial assistance from a government short of cash.

A new leader has been chosen to confront these challenges and to complete the transformation of this nation's premier seat of higher learning into a truly African university.

Surprisingly, the college, commonly known as Wits, will be led into the 21st century by a white man.

"I was amazed," said Boh Charlton, who had expected to be replaced by a black academic after he steps down at the end of the year after 10 years as vice-chancellor and principal.

The selection of Colin Bundy, 52, a graduate of Wits, now head of the University of Western Cape, was unanimously endorsed by a selection panel

A major South African university adapts to the post-apartheid rule of black majority

that included faculty and students, both black and white.

What made the appointment so surprising was that it came just after Wits was rocked by a crisis that forced it to examine its commitment to a fully integrated black-majority university.

"From the clash of wills, skills and policies which created fury, heat and division last year, we now have politeness, agreement and scholarly debate over the future of the institution and indeed all university education within South Africa," the *Star* newspaper said.

The explanation for the change in atmosphere, according to Charlton: The university council was broadened to include more blacks, and the consideration of candidates was done openly. Bundy, despite being a white man at a time of black empowerment, was the unanimous choice.

Wits, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, has historically been on the cusp of change. The university was formed in 1922 and immediately admitted all races.

Nelson Mandela, a Wits student in the 1940s, once recalled: "Despite the university's liberal values, I never felt entirely comfortable there. Although I was to discover a core of sympathetic whites who became friends, most of the whites at Wits were not liberal or color-blind."

Next year, blacks will make up the majority of students. But racial strains remain, with blacks frequently feeling alienated within the colonial British system.

"When some of these kids come to this university, they have never slept in a bed," Charlton said. "They come into a residence, and there is an enormous cultural switch. To expect them to feel fully oriented is naive." This commitment to non-racialism put Wits at odds for years with the Afrikaner-led National Party, which introduced apartheid, the policy of racial separation, after its election in 1948. In 1959, the government extended apartheid to universities. Despite threats of closure, Wits and the University of Cape

Town, which was also integrated, resisted.

In the early 1980s, the university's 1,500 black students began demonstrating. In his book *Wits: A University In An Apartheid Era*, Mervyn Shear recalls that during 1986 and 1987, police responded 52 times to unrest on campus. Again, Wits was threatened with closure for failing to crack down on protests.

Today, the challenges are of a different kind. Johannesburg has become a center of urban decay and violence, causing many parents to worry about sending their sons and daughters to Wits.

There is concern over falling academic standards as admission criteria are lowered to admit disadvantaged students. A cash crisis looms as more impoverished students require financial aid. And there is fear that pressure could force the government, which is committed to affirmative action to correct past inequities, to increase the number of entrants without increasing funding.

Once again, Wits finds itself at

the center of contention: What should an African university within the new South Africa be? The man who helped focus that debate is William Makgoba, a distinguished medical researcher who gained his doctorate in human immunogenetics at England's Oxford University and was a visiting associate at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, in the mid-1980s.

In 1994, Makgoba became one of four deputy vice-chancellors at Wits. He was the first black and the first non-Wits graduate to hold such an elevated post at the university. The Mandela government had just been elected.

Filled with enthusiasm and vision, Makgoba took a salary cut from his position at a Loodm medical school to come home to the land where, as a boy, he had worked as a shepherd.

"I knew this was where I finally wanted to make my final stand, my final contribution to society," he writes in his new book, *Mokoko, The Makgoba*

Affair: A Reflection on Transformation. The Makgoba Affair grew out of the conflict between what Makgoba found at Wits and what he thought an African university should be. What he discovered, he says, was anything but a liberal, democratic institution.

He found a college run by white conservatives, intent on providing a top education for rich whites while admitting a token number of blacks and restricting the advancement of black faculty.

Makgoba went public with his opinions in 1995, angering some white colleagues, who investigated his resume and accused him of embellishing and falsifying his achievements.

The dispute was settled last year. Most of his accusers have apologized. Although Makgoba conceded that parts of his resume were open to misinterpretation, his reputation as a scientist remains intact.

"Wits, like any other institution in South Africa, has to realize that the future of this country

lies with the majority population," Makgoba said.

To Bundy, being charged to take over Wits is not as daunting as it might be to other white men. The University of Western Cape, where he has been for the past five years, is 98 percent black.

Bundy sees his biggest challenge as facing the consequences of decades of educational neglect of blacks, many of whom now want to enter Wits.

His formula for dealing with the problem: flexibility of entrance and courses; the introduction of a two-year US-style associate's degree; permission for students to take four years, instead of three, to graduate; and remedial instruction in math and science for those who need it.

"The tough one is going to be developing, recruiting and, above all, retaining a significant core of black academic staff," he said. Bundy will stress fundraising and will set spending priorities, with growth in one program likely to be offset by cuts in another.

"I'm reasonably optimistic that an institution of Wits's size, with all that history and all that capacity to think about the difficulties, can get it right," he said. (The Baltimore Sun)

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The scourge of domestic violence

The visit by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has rightly caught the headlines and attention of the country this week. The nation, which is still mourning for the victims of the latest terrorist bombings and the fighting in Lebanon, is looking for ways of ensuring that its citizens can feel safe and free of the threat of violence.

It should be remembered, however, that not all violence in our society stems from terror and war. Some of the most appalling instances of violence take place inside the walls of homes. Domestic violence is all the more insidious because it so often occurs silently over years, abetted by denial and willful ignorance. Only when it leads to murder or assaults so severe that they cause hospitalization does it usually reach the public's attention.

A number of cases in point appeared on the inside pages of the newspapers over the past few days. Unfortunately, some of the details have become "routine," even though they involved brutal beatings and a ghastly murder. A Kiryat Ata man, Reuven Yizraelashvili, was arrested in the Ashdod apartment of his estranged wife Irma after he had slit her throat in the presence of a police officer, who was forcing his way into the flat.

According to neighbors, Yizraelashvili had a long history of beating his wife and he refused to grant her a divorce, even after she had fled to another town with their daughter several years ago. Irma's relatives reportedly said that they expected the murder "would only be a matter of time," given Reuven's threats and the clear markings of beatings on Irma. They accused the police of ignoring or doing little in response to "dozens" of pleas for help from Irma, who was wounded despite a court order barring Reuven from seeing her.

Indeed, the call which brought police to the scene initially reported a robbery taking place. By the time officer Kobi Mor managed to smash his way into the flat, all he could do was watch "the husband beat over his wife and slit her throat just like a sheep."

The director of a high-tech communications company was indicted this week by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for beating his pregnant wife until she lost consciousness. In this case as well, the wife had complained a number of times to police of beatings, which included her husband smashing her head against the wall and the floor and brutalizing their children. Upon learning that his wife had complained to the police, the husband reportedly threatened her life and locked her in the house. When the police finally came to arrest the man, they found him hiding in the bathroom, convinced that he had killed his wife. The wife and children have fled to a battered women's shelter.

In yet another case this week, charges were dropped against a Tel Aviv resident who had been charged with beating and threatening to murder his former girlfriend while violating court restraining orders, because the victim had retracted her com-

plaints. The charges were dropped despite objective reasons to continue inquiries into the matter.

Unfortunately, cases of reported domestic violence in Israel have been rising. According to Na'amat, there has been a rise in reported complaints in the last several months. Increases in complaints were noted especially among the elderly and young unmarried women. Recently released statistics on crime in general in the cities of the Coastal Plain indicate, alongside other crime increases, a 30 percent increase in criminal investigations into domestic violence in comparison with last year. Judges have noted that over the last year, 38 women were murdered by their husbands or partners.

All women, children and men have the right to live their lives in a safe environment without fear of emotional, physical or sexual abuse, and society has the responsibility to fight domestic violence. There has been some progress in recent years in dealing with the problem, especially following the passage of the 1991 Law for the Prevention of Family Violence. Several months ago, the prime minister launched an NIS 1.5 million campaign to raise awareness about domestic violence. Indeed, the rise in reported cases may be one result of that campaign.

But raising general awareness is not enough. What is called for is a concerted effort by related professionals and institutions — such as social workers, police, judges, and hospitals — to firmly deal with the issue of domestic violence. Steps that can be taken include setting up more crisis lines and shelters. Currently, shelters are forced to turn away women for lack of space. Hospitals must not be afraid to report cases in which women coming for treatment are deemed to be the subjects of abuse.

Most importantly, judges and the police, who have shown an increase in awareness of the problem, need to take the matter even more seriously. Stiff sentences for offenders are a must, as is ordering violent men to undergo treatment; these acts need not be exclusive, either, and there is no reason not to sentence men to prison and treatment, concurrently or consecutively.

Restraining orders are too often ignored with impunity. Threats of murder and patterns of abuse are not minor matters; they require immediate police attention. A long-promised computer system to keep track of repeat offenders is needed.

It is not only criminal courts that bear responsibility here; too many women are trapped in abusive relationships because divorce courts ignore the violence taking place and insist on delaying decisions in the name of maintaining the sanctity of marriage.

No enlightened society can permit domestic violence to increase unchecked. Fighting violence in the home is as important as the wars that have been declared on terrorism and automobile accidents, and should be accorded proper public attention.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

Sir, I was surprised that the Jerusalem Post republished the article "Southern Hospitality" (Sept. 4) which gives a one-sided perspective that Alabama is antisemitic and that this antisemitism filters down from Governor Fob James Junior.

On August 5, Gov. James came out very strongly against the Pike County School that forced students to participate in religious activities against their will. And he said, "There is no place in Alabama for religious coercion or bigotry."

On March 22, 1996, Gov. James signed a proclamation declaring Jerusalem 3000 Day and quoted the famous 1943 Alabama resolution 144 passed unanimously by both the Congress and Senate of Alabama which states the following: "Now therefore be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Alabama that the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine is not only an act of justice to the Jewish people and the fighting of an ancient wrong, but as an integral part of the new democratic world order."

In 1995 at his inauguration, Gov. James insisted that *Hatikva* be played by the state orchestra before the American National Anthem. Just last week, Mrs. James sent a fax to Jerusalem where she said, "We are so very saddened to hear of the horrible newest tragedy on my favorite place in Jerusalem, Ben-Yehuda. What manner of men are capable of such folly! What sadness engulfs all

who love Jerusalem and her wonderful people." Alabama, especially with Gov. and Mrs. James, is truly a place of Southern Hospitality, especially for Jews, your readers should know the other half of the story.

RABBI ELIOT J. SHERMAN
Tel She Stone.

ANNIVERSARY TO REMEMBER

Sir, — Tough times in Israel. Budgets are being cut, people fired from their jobs, benefits reduced, and one does not hear a word of protest from the leaders of the settlements in the occupied areas. This silence is terribly loud. Obviously they are getting their funds and don't have many complaints. Religious Jews are fighting every day with secular Jews about funds, behavior, benefits, customs, rights, and a thousand other issues. Is this really the kind of country that its founders imagined would develop almost 50 years ago?

For our 50th anniversary next year we don't need a budget of NIS 250 million and don't need to draw tourists from abroad who won't come anyway. Maybe our "leaders" ought to earn their titles and their salaries and make a genuine effort at solving the problems that have divided us so seriously these past years. Any success would truly make the 50th anniversary one to remember.

BOB OLINSKY
Petach Tikva

SCHOOL OF TERROR

Sir, — I was disappointed to read your opening paragraph of "Rabka's forgotten 'school of terror'" which claimed Rabka is not mentioned in Martin Gilbert's monumental *Atlas of the Holocaust* (J.P. May 5, 1997).

May I refer you to page 114 (map 141) of the said atlas where it will be seen Rabka is clearly shown.

For two years I have been studying as a postgraduate student under Sir Martin Gilbert, and I can assure you that he is fully conversant with all aspects of the Jewish tragedy in Rabka.

Under his guidance, and that of Professor John Klier, (Hebrew and Jewish Studies Department), University College London, I am at present researching all aspects of the SS/SD School at Rabka.

ROBIN O'NEIL
London.

Alexander Zvielli comments: In Martin Gilbert's *Atlas of the Holocaust*, Steimatzky's edition, Rabka doesn't appear in any of the major maps which I consulted, nor in the index.

It is indeed mentioned only once on a very small map on page 114. My apologies to Sir Martin. Yet I am still of the opinion that Rabka, both because of the size of the locality and as a "school for murder" could have been mentioned on a larger map.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On September 11, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported from Lake Success that charges that the Jerusalem Mufti Haj Amin el-Husseini had collaborated with the Nazis were upheld in the full text of the UN Special Committee on Palestine report.

Four explosions occurred at the installations of the Consolidated

Refineries in Haifa.

25 years ago: On September 11, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported massive weekend air raids on bases in Syria and Lebanon. More than 250 persons were believed to have been killed or wounded.

The Israeli Cabinet discussed the Munich massacre. It was

reported that the German policemen assigned to foil the Munich terrorist operation were unprepared for their mission. The US asked the UN Security Council to condemn the murders.

Moscow synagogues were reported to have been blocked by Soviet Secret Police to some Jews on Rosh Hashana.

Alexander Zvielli



Price of appeasement

Last week she was in Prague and also visited the Theresienstadt concentration camp. This week she is center stage in Jerusalem. Surely not even the masters of classical Greek drama could have dreamt up a more powerful theatrical scenario as Madeleine Albright flew into the Holy Land.

Appearing before an Israeli audience, still traumatized following a period of terrorist-inflicted death and injury, the US secretary of state will reflect on how her Jewish grandparents perished in the Holocaust.

Nor will there be need to remind her how her mother and father fled their native land and converted in the hope of ensuring that their daughter did not suffer from being branded "Jewess." This Second World War upheaval owes much to a weak-jawed English prime minister who agreed a "peace in our time" deal with Adolf Hitler.

Madeleine Albright knows that the US State Department, abetted by local self-styled intellectuals, urges her to adopt traditional policies to pressure Israel to make yet more concessions to Yasser Arafat as a key element in its gospel of trading "land for peace." Or in plain language: Neville Chamberlain-style groveling appeasement.

This misbegotten, ill-fated Oslo peace accord, spawned four years ago, led directly to the suicide-bomb slaughter of Israelis, young and old. At the time, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin astonished President Clinton by announcing that they had made a secret pact with their "partner" Yasser Arafat.

The world applauded and dished out Nobel peace prizes. Not so the GSS, the Mossad, the country's military leaders, or IDF intelligence who were all horrified. As a senior intelligence officer told us: "Trusting Arafat was a disastrous mistake." He and other professionals warned Rabin repeatedly, indeed almost in despair, that he was presenting

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

Arafat with a golden opportunity to use terrorism ruthlessly in his dream of driving the Jews into the sea and setting himself up as dictator of a Jewish-free Palestine.

Then followed Rabin's grievous blunder of ordering the highly efficient GSS to dismantle its

Secretary Albright, you saw the consequences of such license at Theresienstadt

long-cultured Arab informant network which had kept terrorism in reasonable check until then. "Arafat will control the terrorists and be your informants. He will keep a lid on Hamas and Islamic Jihad fanatics. Trust him," was his message.

How bitter then the sight of Arafat warmly embracing fanatic fundamentalist leaders receding and whispering in their ears the message: "Carry on chaps. Unleash your suicide killers."

Installed in Gaza, Arafat, as well as Hamas, imported massive quantities of weaponry and explosives via tunnels from Egypt. In Tel Aviv, in Jerusalem and other sites around the country, suicide bombers killed over 250 Israelis and wounded some 1,500 others.

Without a presence on the West Bank, the GSS could no longer protect Israeli civilians. The areas handed over so gratuitously to Arafat have become safe refuges for killers and thieves to this very day.

Arafat's policy of demanding more concessions, accelerated under Bin'amin Netanyahu's administration. And Netanyahu

surrendered, as did Peres and Rabin, over Hehroo. When the process slowed, Arafat prodded his extremist buddies into action. Netanyahu's vaunted promise of security for Israelis went up in smoke and the blast of bombs.

The Tel Aviv Apropro cafe blast, followed by mayhem in the heart of Jerusalem — Mahaneh Yehuda and Ben-Yehuda — demonstrated this with horrendous results. Netanyahu's appeasement was no different from that of Rabin and Peres and Chamberlain. Small wonder we heard Israelis at the scene of the bombing cry out in despair: "We can't go on like this. Where are our leaders? We are like sheep waiting to be slaughtered. Our leaders fail us again and again. They do nothing. No one of them."

Our intelligence source warns: "Arafat is covetous he's winning. He sees Jews as weak and tired, like in the ghettos. He's a great admirer of the Algerian form of terrorism that hotchers civilians to bring fundamentalist Iranian-style bosses to power. We now can expect more suicide bombers."

"There was no terrorism on this scale before the curse of Oslo. It needs scores of support teams to launch suicide attacks. These are Arabs who live in Arafatland, in Israel and almost certainly in eastern Jerusalem. We are self-destructing. We have lost control of the situation."

Madeleine Albright, permit us to point out that the Prague you saw last week became the symbol of Nazi terror given a free hand. You saw the consequences of such license at Theresienstadt. Yasser Arafat is of the same mold. He proves it daily. You saw the victims yesterday in our hospital. The message is stark: Appeasement breeds death and destruction.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

Who needs nice?

LARRY DERFNER

Before Ezer Weizman became president, I had the privilege of interviewing him twice. Each session lasted less than a minute.

The first time he spat the f-word at me for asking what he considered an impertinent question. The second time he brushed me off like I was some bug.

Between my personal history with him and years of following him in the news, I've come to the conclusion that President Weizman is not a nice person. Not that he's heartless — you see he's not in his visits to grieving families — just that he's not nice. A little rough. Often unpleasant. Boorish. Arrogant. Obnoxious.

His famous backslapping, earthy, common touch with the common people — it strikes me as being sincere enough, but let's call it the sabra way of noblesse oblige.

Weizman puts everyone at ease, he talks their language, as long as everyone remembers who the eagle is around here.

He made the most miserable showing after the Rabin assassination, he insults women, homosexuals — he insults everybody. Besides which, he's an old Zionist drone, and if he could he'd probably commandeer Israel TV and tell Air Force stories into the camera all day.

And yet.

If there's anybody I look to these days as a leader, anybody I take confidence from, it's Weizman.

Face it, we need a leader. Even in the most stable times, every country needs a leader. But Israel? Now? We need one badly. People seem lost. They don't believe in Oslo, but they're afraid of life without Oslo. They don't believe in the New Middle East, and ood they don't believe in

If there's anybody I look to these days as a leader, it's Weizman

"Peace with Security" either. They've given up on the idea that peace is inevitable, and are beginning to think it may be impossible.

Which way should we go? Who should we follow?

Netanyahu? Ah, well... Ehud Barak? What a disappointment he's turned out to be. He keeps aiming for the cushy, amorphous center, trying to stay in everybody's good books, and ends up being neither here nor there. In this shaky, perilous time, Barak says nothing worth listening to. The man shrinks in stature week by week.

OF anybody with real top-level juice in this country, Weizman alone seems willing to go the distance for peace, and, if this isn't working, to go the distance for security. He has the fecklessness to move in either direction, depending on what the Arabs do, and the judgment to know which way to go, and when.

He changed from being one of Oslo's most enthusiastic supporters to being its most potent critic. When the buses were blowing up and he said we should stop and think, we, the believers in Oslo, should have listened, but we were afraid — afraid to risk the chance for peace.

Now that we have a prime minister who has only disdain for Oslo — disdain for Arabs, when you come down to it — Weizman has taken it upon himself to keep the chance for peace alive. He tells Arafat he's got to stop the terror, yet makes it clear to Albright that Netanyahu also had quite some hand in bringing us to the present abyss.

With Israelis and Palestinians seussawing out of control, Weizman seems to have a clearer idea than most where the balancing point is.

Same with Lebanon. Now that it's beginning to look like the war there may never end, more and more Israelis, in desperation, believe we can just declare peace and bring our soldiers home.

Sorry, says Weizman, it's too good to be true. We get peace in Lebanon only if we make peace with Syria. Until then, our soldiers can't come home.

We may be in for a lot more fighting, and not just in Lebanon. We may have to go through a lot of hell, and make a lot of sacrifices, to get through all this in one piece.

When listening to the president, I feel like I just might be prepared for that hell, if it comes.

In times like these, who needs nice? We need a leader, and until we elect one, Ezer Weizman is it.

The writer is a journalist living in Modi'in.

Rites of passage

STEPHEN M. FLATOW

connection of Israel to Jews around the world.

I also tell them that in these times, when terror stalks us in the capital of Israel, in dusty places such as Kfar Darom, or at bus stops on the West Bank, it is important to show those who would harm us that we will still go to Israel because by so doing, we demonstrate that we will not be easily intimidated.

Jews are one and when a Jew is hurt in Jerusalem, another will still go there as if to say 'I am here for you'

provide financial assistance to college-age youth who wish to study Judaism in Israel. With the help of a generous public, we have provided 11 scholarships over the past two years.

But, as important as the scholarship fund is to me and my family, there is a lesson all of us can learn from those who apply to us for assistance. The lesson can be gleaned from the simple fact that those 11 scholarship recipients were selected from the nearly 400 applications we have received.

There is a yearning to go to Israel among our young men and women that surpasses anything we adults can muster. Our sons and daughters are teaching us by example that Jews are one and that when a Jew is hurt in Jerusalem, another will still go there as if to say "I am here for you."

Now, as Francine, her friends, and the thousands of other students studying in Israel walk down the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall and shop at Mahaneh Yehudah, we should take comfort from them. I am proud beyond words of all our children, yours and mine, because, by their example, we will live.

The writer is the father of Aliso Flatow, a victim of the terror attack at Kfar Darom on April 9, 1995. He is the founder of the Aliso Flatow Memorial Fund to

I saw my daughter off at the airport earlier this week. Once again, I have joined in a rite of passage shared by thousands of Jewish families around the world.

Having graduated from high school, Francine, 17 years old, is going to Israel to study for the next 10 months.

As you read this, the tragedy of Rehov Ben-Yehuda is still fresh in our minds. Many of the injured are still in hospital, recovering from their wounds. Others are getting on with their lives — which will never be the same — since the attack.

I know the fact that we send our sons and daughters to Israel to study in its yeshivot and universities especially puzzles journalists. I say this because in every interview I have given since Alisa's death, the question of my children's future travel to Israel is raised.

When the question is asked, it usually comes out as "having lost one daughter to terrorism, how could you send another child to Israel?" And each time I am asked that question, I say to myself, "they just don't get it."

Theo I try to explain that Israel is special to the Jewish people; that while our children are leaving their homes in the United States and other countries, they are going to be among family in Israel. I talk about the historical and religious

apparently trying to snatch a fish out the end of Wood's spear and hit him in the crook of his arm.

Wood, 54, a Gainesville veterinarian, was expected to recover.

His girlfriend, Gail Brooks, was credited with saving his life by using dental floss to tie off an artery in his arm.

"She clamped the artery with her fingers, went back on the boat, got dental floss and with other people's help, she found the artery and that's all it took," a doctor said.

POSTSCRIPTS

A QUICK-THINKING nurse used dental floss to save her boyfriend from bleeding to death after a shark attack in the Bahamas.

A shark shredded Wilbur Wood's right arm while he was spearfishing. The shark was

apparently trying to snatch a fish out the end of Wood's spear and hit him in the crook of his arm.

Wood, 54, a Gainesville veterinarian, was expected to recover.

His girlfriend, Gail Brooks, was credited with saving his life

by using dental floss to tie off an artery in his arm.

"She clamped the artery with her fingers, went back on the boat, got dental floss and with other people's help, she found the artery and that's all it took," a doctor said.

Who needs nice?

LARRY DERFNER

B

'The worst is yet to come'

HARVEST OF RAGE: Why Oklahoma City Is Only the Beginning by Joel Dyer. Boulder, CO: Westview, 292 pp. \$24.

By Stephanie Saul

The Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 triggered a rash of books on America's anti-government radicals. These books focused largely on the movement's leadership, philosophies and tactics. And they warned federal authorities to act quickly to quell the movement's spread.

Harvest of Rage is a valuable, if excessively alarmist, addition to this genre. Written by Colorado journalist Joel Dyer, this book differs significantly from the others in at least two respects.

First, instead of treating the anti-government followers as fringe radicals, Dyer correctly points out that the radical right's philosophies have permeated mainstream thinking in many rural communities.

In many outposts of America's heartland, today's anti-government radical was yesterday's average farmer. Forced off his land by factors largely beyond his control, the ex-farmer's anger has reached a boiling point, Dyer concludes.

Second, instead of sketching the structure and leaders of the anti-government movement, Dyer focuses on the federal policies that led to the current rural revolt. He takes readers through Earl Butz's administration as agriculture secretary under Nixon, when farmers were encouraged to borrow and expand. Then he explains how the Federal Reserve's decision to raise interest rates in the late 1970s led to disaster for farmers.

This is what triggered the farm crisis of the 1980s, with farmers suddenly unable to pay notes on their land, equipment and supplies. Dozens of farmers committed suicide. In many farm communities, Dyer says, death was considered a noble alternative if it saved the family farm from foreclosure.

Dyer follows the metamorphosis of several average farmers into tax protesters and right-wing activists, even prison inmates.



Timothy McVeigh leaves the Noble County Courthouse accompanied by law enforcement officials, after being identified as a suspect in the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building. (AP)

One of them is Gideon Cowan, an Oklahoma man who lost his 4,000-acre farm. Unable to obtain what he viewed as justice through the courts, Cowan filed liens against the banker who foreclosed on his property. Now he is serving an eight-year prison term for filing false documents.

Dyer also tells the story of another Oklahoma family, the Stalders. School-bus driver Jimmy Reeves and a busload of children found the smoldering remains of the Stalder farm on the first day of school, Aug. 19, 1986. Bill Stalder had killed his wife, son and daughter, then shot the family dog before setting his house on fire and turning a shotgun on himself. He was facing foreclosure on the land his family had accumulated over many years.

Cowan chose a form of civil disobedience. Stalder killed himself and his family rather than lose his farm. For others, the only answer is to strike back at the society that abandoned them, planting pipe bombs and conducting paramilitary training in the woods, Dyer says.

And he argues that the worst is yet to come.

Who is at fault here? Dyer makes a case that farmers have been squeezed off their land by the global economy and family federal policies that encourage the development of large farming and food conglomerates. The losers are family farms.

The bad guys in this book are not just the Timothy McVeighs who bomb buildings, they're the big growers and packers and the Washington politicians who are beholden to them for campaign contributions.

Dyer is editor of the Boulder (Colo.) Weekly. He spent seven years researching this book, relying to a great extent on the opinions of psychologists who have studied the impact of the farm crisis on the lives of rural Americans. According to Dyer, many of these mental-health professionals believe that long-term economic hardship has pushed many of these people toward desperation. Dyer's extensive research is evident. He paints

intimate portraits of his subjects and takes his readers where they would probably never dare travel on their own.

He spends time in an Oklahoma farmhouse filled with followers of Christian Identity—a group that believes blacks and Jews are the offspring of Satan. There, Dyer is told that the militia is getting ready to start carrying out death sentences against its enemies.

In Fort Davis, Texas, where hitchhiking posts are just as common as parking meters, Dyer meets with another group of anti-government activists.

"As I reached the top of Wild Rose Pass, my tires straddled a giant tarantula that was slowly making its way across the lonely highway. It seemed an appropriate introduction to the prehistoric-looking setting that surrounds Fort Davis, Texas.... And as I drove the empty highways through open range, it seemed the only abundant crop in this harsh land was the shattered foundations of abandoned homesteads," he writes.

At the compound of anti-government radicals, Dyer is frisked by four rifle-toting guards before being allowed inside.

By going so deep inside the anti-government movement, Dyer is able to explain fully the motivations of its members. But he sometimes seems to get too close to his subjects. Consider this passage: "Time and again, I have parted from such experiences with a great appreciation for the people I've met. It's not because I agree with what they believe but rather because I've discovered that they are just ordinary people who have been through hard times." The subjects of Dyer's research, many of whom are threatening extreme violence against the government, are hardly "ordinary." But perhaps it is his empathy that allows him to paint such a complete picture of them.

Many experts on the anti-government movement believe its followers are preparing to stage a race war or major rebellion. Dyer agrees with them.

Dyer heightens his alarmist tone as he nears the end of his book, warning that the next 1,000 days will be a period of increased violence among these anti-government groups, many of whom believe the end of the millennium marks the "tribulation"—a period of difficulty prophesied in the New Testament.

Dyer argues for a top-to-bottom restructuring of the political and economic system that led to the disenfranchisement of rural Americans, but he gives few specific recommendations on how to achieve that goal.

"Rebellion usually leads to democratic reforms," Dyer says. "The question is, how much rebellion? Apparently 5,000 pipe bombs were not enough. The Atlanta bombings were not enough. Even Oklahoma City has changed nothing."

"Now is the time to create a democracy in which our elected representatives resemble the people they represent. Change must come soon—or we run the risk of becoming a country we can no longer recognize," he warns.

(Newsday)

Low-fat prose

THE BEST AMERICAN ESSAYS 1996 edited by Geoffrey C. Ward. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 370 pp. \$12.95.

By Haim Chertok

For the past 11 years Robert Atwan has invited guest editors such as Elizabeth

Hardwick, Susan Sontag, and Justin Kaplan to fill a table with the year's finest nonfictional fare. Year after year these banquets have been both tasty and intellectually nourishing. By my lights, however, Geoffrey Ward's 1996 harvest sets a new standard of excellence.

Behind its no-nonsense title, a 22-course feast awaits the knowing patron.

First, an overview. If you require a steady diet of low-fat prose but feel constrained to limit yourself to only one subscription, as it has for more than half a century, *The New Yorker* still stands supreme.

Fully eight of Ward's choices first breathed life in its pages. The only other journals to score more than a single selection are *The New York Review of Books* (2) and *Esquire* (2).

As for subject matter, the best American essays of 1996 reflect God's own plenty.

Three cultural icons are brilliantly spotlighted. From the clutches of the feminist ideologues, Joan Acocella rescues Willa Cather so as to resurrect her on her own terms. James Fenton exposes the envious depths of Michelangelo's egotistical ego, and Adam Gopnik forcibly argues the essential innocence of Charles Dodgson's passion for beholding the unclothed bodies of prepubescent Alice. Moving downward to more popular culture, in "Hooked" Stanley Crouch dissects a Michael Jackson performance as a kind of profane incantation, while Julie Bamberger's "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" meanders merrily through Graceland: "He was lost in the mid-sixties, when he knew he would not be James Dean.... In the seventies, his two

chins were sliced by the sideburns grown over his ears, the tumbling locks of hair were not deliberate, his face hot with cold sweat."

Three essays range over aspects of Afro-American experience. A yen for Baltimore "crabcakes" leads James Alan McPherson to ponder the life and death of an Afro-American short order cook. Gerald Early brilliantly unravels the roots of American Afrocentrism, and Darryl Pinckney offers a cogent critique of Louis Farrakhan's rhetorical strategy: "It was clear the Anti-Defamation League would not let his baiting remarks go unchallenged, but had Farrakhan gone on about white people in general all this time, he would not have gotten half the attention."

Although five or six of this year's essays are Jewish, that passing remark comprises the entirety of the book's "Jewish material." Koreans and Indians fare better. In "Coming Home Again," Chang-Rae Lee paints a touching portrait of her deceased mother as a culinary psychologist, and Amitav Ghosh recalls his own dubious role in a bloody riot between Hindus and Moslems.

Natural history for readers not devoted to the genre abounds in descriptive essays about owls, steelhead trout (alas, not entitled "Unhooked"), and the black widow, as well as a wildly eccentric celebration of the natural world by Edward Hoagland and an absorbingly revisionist reevaluation of the concept of "wilderness" by William Cronon. There are two stunning evocations of place: outlander Ian Frazier's appreciation of Brooklyn and a luminous restoration of the rural Millersport of her girlhood by Joyce Carol Oates. Nicholson Baker, contemporary master of significant minutiae and the scholarly aside, pursues antiquarian quarry to a surprising end in "Books as Furniture." For 1996, however, the laurels go to Joseph Epstein for the neoclassical elegance and continual sparkle of "The Art of the Nap." It is inconceivable that any reader would nod through this marriage of imagination to wit.

If I have passed in silence over contributions by the likes of William Styron and Bruce Shapiro, it has been for lack of space alone.

Overall, 1996 was a vintage year for the American essay. Tipplers of words, push on through to the buttery bar. Great and serious pleasure beckons.

If there's any look to these... as a leader... Woman

Nausea on contact with pork products

PIG TALES: A Novel of Lust and Transformation by Marie Darrieussecq. Translated by Linda Coverdale. London: Faber and Faber, 135 pp. £9.99.

By Leslie Cohen

Marie Darrieussecq has made a flamboyant debut with her novel of lust and transformation. This parody of sexual, social and political misbehavior is pleasantly titillating French readers, much as *Bonjour tristesse* did over 30 years ago.

I compare *Pig Tales* to Sagan's first novel because both stories of sexual adventure are breathlessly

recounted by a noble heroine whose naivete is a source of sardonic humor.

Both point an accusing finger at social corruption. And as for the mother-daughter relationship... well, you'll have to see for yourself.

Darrieussecq envisions a post-modern society which uncomfortably resembles our own. In this fantasy world, pets are very expensive because "Nowadays, there aren't many animals left." People are becoming scarce, too. In church, the priest warns the heroine of rampant diseases, holding a handkerchief over his nose throughout their conversation.

There is a "hygienic window" between priest and penitent in the

confessional. Through a slot in the "box-thing," she pays the usual fee (!?) for confession.

The anonymous heroine suffers from an undiagnosed illness.

Her symptoms include inexplicable weight gain, pink rashes, skin growths, nausea and vomiting upon contact with pork products, and greatly reduced memory. As her myopia increases, so does her olfactory sense. The transformation from woman to pig is described in open-mouthed wonder, juxtaposed with the detailed record of her humiliating sexual experiences. Clearly, this is an allegory.

The unnamed heroine (whom I will call Miss Piggy) works in a massage parlor where she is

viewed as "wholesome" because of her increasingly robust figure and rosy cheeks. There, she dispenses cosmetics and obediently turns her rear to every client who shows an interest. Adicionados of this variety of sex will be frequently amused.

As the novel advances, its emphasis shifts from the sexual to the political and it becomes strongly Orwellian. Corrupt political leaders and the police decide "to have the asylum cleaned out with a big dose of napalm." After *The War*, Miss Piggy resides in a hotel where "The only things that still worked were the self-disinfecting showers, but they often malfunctioned and drowned a few guests." Crazyness reigns in the end, with people ron-

tinely changing into various animal species. When Miss Piggy and her boyfriend order home-delivered pizza, the heroine tells us, "I ate the pizza, Yvan ate the pizza man."

I frankly have a strong penchant for the offbeat, the eccentric and the bizarre, and I can certainly understand Darrieussecq's need to evoke feelings of revulsion in the reader. But I found the frequent allusions to bestial sex practices redundant. The switch in emphasis from sexual perversion to political corruption towards the end was most welcome. By intelligent design, the story is told tongue-in-cheek (don't ask which cheek), and it is possible to chuckle at every new outrage.

BOOK BYTES

While covering the 1992 Los Angeles riots in the wake of the Rodney King trial, London Times correspondent Ben Macintyre paid a visit to the archives of the historic Pinkerton Detective Agency for a bit of light relief. There he came across 1902 newspaper clipping entitled, "Adam Worth, Greatest Thief of Modern Times: stole \$3,000,000."

In another corner of the archives Macintyre found six fat files labeled "Worth." Here was a forgotten story: A German-born American Jew fakes his death in the Civil War (during the Battle of Bull Run, 1862), clears out half a million dollars from a Boston bank, ships out to the Victorian London with his Irish "moll," and establishes a vast criminal network that extends from Constantinople to San Francisco to Cape Town.

"By day he was virtue personified and by night the blackest of sinners," writes Macintyre, who spent the next year gathering Worth facts and legends. "I had a daunting mass of material. I had not, however, written a single word."

For the writing to begin, the author needed an opportune break from his journalistic career. It came with the siege of David Koresh's compound in Waco, Texas. For six weeks he was more or less confined to his room in the Day's Inn by the highway, waiting. "Enough sheer boredom set in to dismantle even my monumental writer's block."

The outcome was *The Napoleon of Crime: The Life and Times of Adam Worth* (HarperCollins). The book's title came from a quotation in Arthur Conan Doyle's story "The Final Problem," in which Sherlock Holmes says, "He is the Napoleon of crime, Watson." Holmes, of course, is referring to the arch-criminal Professor Moriarty, who is in fact Conan Doyle's fictionalized character now known to be modeled on

TO SAY that beauty is only skin deep takes on new meaning in Karl Gruning's fascinating *Decorated Skin: A World Survey of Body Art* (Thames & Hudson) with 418 illustrations. The phenomenon of face and body painting dates back to earliest times and includes virtually all societies. From the made-up palace women of ancient Knossos to the war-painted bodies of native Americans, the skin was the first canvas of the artist.

The colorfully encrusted faces of the Mendi natives of Papua New Guinea indicate individual status and wealth. The Waura people of Brazil go in for pink and white leopard spots, using a paint that also repels insects. And the Japanese geisha's white painted face is said to "serve as a blank screen on which her clients can project their desires."

THE NINTH Poet Laureate of the United States is Robert Pinsky. Pinsky teaches writing at Boston University, is poetry editor of the online journal *Slate*, author of five books of poetry and essays, and translator of a highly acclaimed version of Dante's *Inferno*. His latest anthology, *Figured Wheel: New and Collected Poems 1966-1996*, is published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. The one-year appointment which Pinsky takes over from Robert Hass pays \$35,000.

A FESTIVAL of poetry readings in 12 languages is being sponsored by the Israeli Federation of Writers' Associations. Poets will read their own works in English, Hebrew, Arabic, Yiddish, Russian, French and Spanish, among other languages. The event, including musical interludes, will take place from September 15-27 at the Writers' House, 6 Kaplan St., Tel Aviv, beginning at 8 p.m. For details, call Karen Alkslay-Gut at 03-6416548. David Brauner

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A wounded Confederate soldier returns home toward the end of the Civil War to meet an old love.
2. *Unnatural Exposure* by Patricia Cornwell. (Putnam \$25.95.) Dr. Kay Scarpetta contends with a killer who uses a smallpox-like virus and cyberspace tricks.
3. *Special Delivery* by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte \$18.95.) Romance comes to a mature couple.
4. *If This World Were Mine* by E. Lynn Harris. (Doubleday \$23.95.) The seemingly close bonds of four old classmates are strained when a stranger enters their lives.
5. *Pitman Island* by Nelson DeMille. (Warner \$25.) A detective probes the murder of a Long Island couple who may have been involved in germ warfare research.
6. *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner \$16.95.) A World War II veteran meets an old flame who is about to be married.
7. *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy. (Random House \$23.) Death and secrets haunt a once-prosperous merchant family in contemporary India.
8. *The Partner* by John Grisham. (Doubleday \$26.95.) The search for \$90 million stolen by a lawyer, believed dead, who is in hiding.
9. *London* by Edward Rutherfurd. (Crown \$25.95.) Two thousand years of life in Britain's capital as seen by six families.
10. *Daha Deed* by Kathy Reichs. (Schirmer \$24.) Dr. Temperance Brennan hunts a serial killer at large in Montreal.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
2. *The Man Who Listens to Horses* by Monty Roberts. (Random House \$23.) The memoirs of a professional horse trainer.
3. *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger. (Norton \$23.95.) An account of the nor'easter of 1991, focusing on fishermen from Gloucester, Mass.
4. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95.) An account of the ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
5. *Conversations with God: Book 1* by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95.) The author addresses questions of life and love, good and evil, guilt and sin.
6. *Babyhood* by Paul Reiser. (Weisbach, Morrow, \$22.) The problems and pleasures of parenthood as perceived by the television star.
7. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt. (Random House \$23.) The mysterious death of a young man in Savannah, Ga.
8. *The Bible Code* by Michael Drosnin. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) Hidden predictions in the Bible.
9. *Brain Droppings* by George Carlin. (Hyperion \$19.95.) Comments by the stand-up comedian.
10. *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Doubleday \$22.) An analysis of the lives of wealthy Americans discloses that they have seven characteristics in common.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *Cause of Death* by Patricia Cornwell. (Berkeley \$7.50.) Dr. Kay Scarpetta investigates the mysterious death of a reporter.
2. *The Laws of Our Fathers* by Scott Turow. (Warner \$7.99.) The trial of a probation officer for his mother's murder recalls the turbulent 1960s.
3. *Legend* by Jude Deveraux. (Pocket \$6.99.) A bride-to-be in modern-day Virginia suddenly finds herself in 18th-century Colorado.
4. *Dark Paradise* by Taml Hoag. (Bantam \$8.50.) A woman vacationing in Montana becomes the target of a stalker.
5. *Executive Orders* by Tom Clancy. (Bantam \$7.50.) Vice President Jack Ryan has problems after the deaths of the president and most of the government.
6. *The Regulators* by Richard Bachman. (Signet \$7.99.) Killings and other horrors disrupt a quiet suburban town in Ohio.
7. *Above and Beyond* by Sandra Brown. (Mira \$8.99.) The troubled courtship of a widow by her late husband's best friend.
8. *Songs in Ordinary Time* by Mary McGarry Morris. (Penguin \$13.95.) A divorced woman and her three children are menaced by a con man.
9. *The Third Twin* by Ken Follet. (Fawcett \$7.99.) A genetic researcher's work brings frightening experiences.
10. *Desperation*, by Stephen King. (Signet \$7.99.) Visitors to a small mining town in Nevada encounter terrifying forces.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *The Color of Water* by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A black writer and musician recalls his experiences growing up with his white mother in Brooklyn.
2. *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone/\$8 \$16.) The story of how Thomas Jefferson sponsored Lewis and Clark.
3. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95.) A young man obsessed by the wilderness was a tragic end in Alaska.
4. *Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage \$13.) Homeholders sue industrial polluters.
5. *Spontaneous Healing* by Andrew Weil. (Fawcett \$12.95.) How the body heals itself.
6. *Emotional Intelligence* by Daniel Goleman. (Bantam \$13.95.) Factors other than IQ that contribute to a successful and happy life.
7. *Hanson* by Jill Matthews. (Archway/Pocket \$3.99.) The story of the pop-rock group composed of three young brothers.
8. *Reviving Ophelia* by Mary Pipher. (Ballantine \$12.50.) The everyday dangers that beset teenage girls.
9. *Girlfriends* by Carmen Renee Berry and Tamara Traeder. (Wildcat Canyon \$12.95.) Ties that bind women.
10. *The Heart of a Woman* by Maya Angelou. (Bantam \$12.) Volume 4 of the poet's autobiography.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff... and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kibberger. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.
3. *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$8.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
4. *Chicken Soup for the Women's Soul* compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jennifer Read Hawthorne, and Marci Shimoff. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
2. *Man and Woman* by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$23.) Improving communication and relationships.
3. *Eight Weeks to Optimum Health* by Andrew Weil. (Knopf, \$23.) A physician's diet, exercise, and psychological program.
4. *The Zone* by Barry Sears with Bill Lawren. (Regan Books/HarperCollins \$23.) Diets to prevent disease and improve mental health.

The New York Times BESTSELLERS

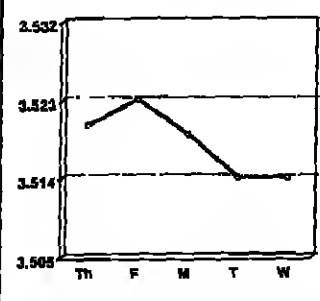
STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. *Cause of Death* by Patricia Cornwell. Berkeley, Warner.
2. *Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood. Bantam, Virago.
3. *Perfect Family* by Penny Jordan. Mills & Boon.
4. *Panther in the Basement* by Amos Oz. Vintage.
5. *To the Hill* by Dick Francis. Pan, Jove.
6. *Blue Mountain* by Meir Shalev. Steimatzky.
7. *Snakes & Ladders* by Madge Swindells. Warner.
8. *"M" is for Malice* by Sue Grafton. Fawcett, Pan.
9. *Branded Man* by Catherine Cookson. Corgi.
10. *Sharing the Promised Land* by Dilip Hiro. Coronet.

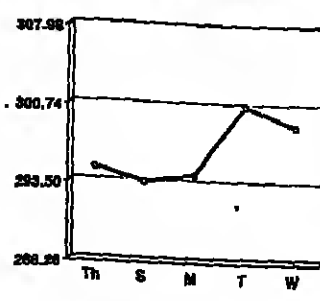
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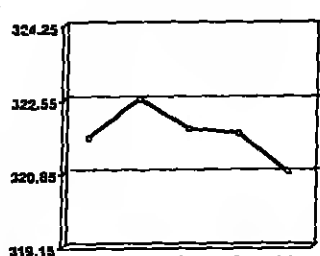
DOLLAR / SHEKEL



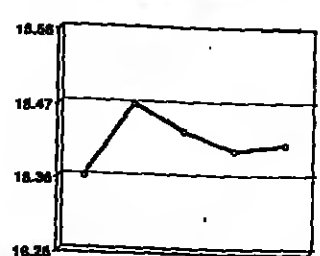
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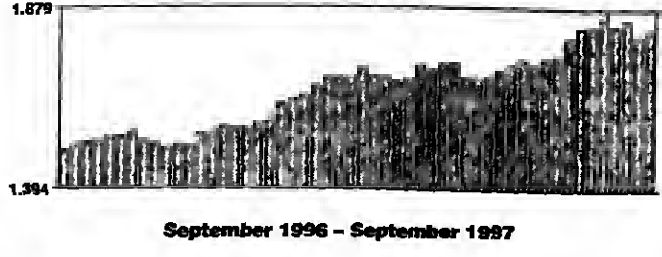
GOLD
\$ per ounce



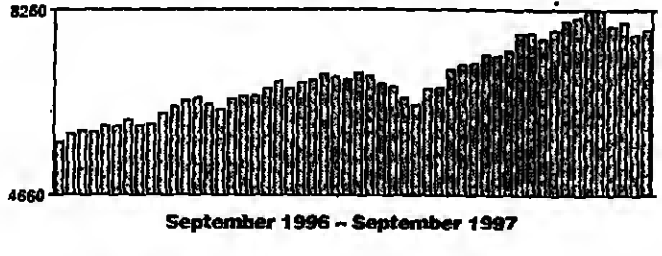
OIL
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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August trade deficit at \$796 million

The nation's trade deficit totaled \$796.8 million in August, compared with \$1.049 billion in August 1996, and \$447.8m. in July, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

Imports totaled \$2.293b. and exports, \$1.496b. The longer term trends show imports remaining stable this year, following declines in the second half of last year and an increase in exports.

Since the start of the year there has been a slowdown in the reduction of the trade deficit, as compared to July to December 1996.

Forty-four percent of August imports were raw materials, while 19% were machinery and transport equipment for investment, 14% consumer goods and the remainder diamonds and fuel.

Some 80% of August exports were industrial or software, including 18% diamonds and 2% agricultural produce.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Gov't seeks to sell IDF real estate

By DAVID HARRIS

As part of the 1998 budget discussions, the Treasury and Defense Ministry are considering selling valuable real estate to raise money for the military, State Budget Director David Milgrom said yesterday.

Briefing journalists on the ongoing negotiations between the Treasury and the other ministries, Milgrom said the sale of bases, such as that at Sde Dov Airport in Tel Aviv and Kerdani near Acre, could raise millions of dollars.

The sales, which are the subject of intense negotiation between the two ministries, would be handled by the Israel

Lands Administration.

The government will at the same time search for less expensive sites to replace the ones that are sold.

In the two days since the cabinet approved the details of the 1998 NIS 2.3 billion budget cut, there have been a series of inquiries from overseas entrepreneurs about possible investments, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday.

They are emanating from businessmen with existing interests in Israel and those trying the waters for the first time.

"The market reacts very quickly to what the government does," said Neeman, who yesterday met a delegation from

England which is looking at a "large-scale investment."

Neeman again refused to predict the success of the budget once it is introduced to the Knesset on October 27.

"I don't prophesy, I'm not a prophet, or am I the son of a prophet," he said.

During the marathon cabinet debate preceding the vote, the Treasury agreed to several compromises with a variety of ministries, amounting to several hundred million shekels, yet still managed to reach its NIS 2.3b. target.

This was achieved because the Treasury went into the meeting with cuts totaling considerably more than NIS 2.3b., admitted

Milgrom.

"We did this without any reduction in spending on infrastructure, and without cuts that would affect the socially weak," he said.

This should enable the government to achieve its goal of a 1998 budget deficit no higher than 2.4% of the gross domestic product, added Milgrom, pointing out the cut did not include tax increases.

The Treasury is now striving to enforce a considerable reduction in the number of local authorities from the current 260, setting an example by trimming the number of its own departments.

With the Histadrut planning

industrial action, Milgrom is urging the organization to realize that all-round belt-tightening will be of long-term benefit to the workers, particularly in the lower wage brackets.

The cuts are not as significant as is being portrayed by several of the ministers, claimed Milgrom.

This, he said, is because they are not taking into account transfers of funds for next year from the 1997 budget.

Overall transfers include NIS 2.140b. for social spending, including health (NIS 475 million), education (NIS 470m.), labor and social affairs (NIS 195m.), and national insurance (NIS 1b.).

Israel Corp. to issue NIS 352m. in convertible bonds

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Israel Corp. intends to sell local institutional investors NIS 352 million of convertible, inflation-linked bonds this month, Doron Steiger, the company's president and chief executive officer, said yesterday.

The bonds will be convertible into shares of Israel Chemicals owned by the Israel Corp. Steiger said the move was done to reduce interest costs and that the money will be used for debt repayment. "We want to repay expensive loans and this is a cheap way to raise money," he said.

If the entire seven-year issue is converted the firm's stake in Israel Chemicals would be reduced from 41.9 percent to 35.5%. "In the eyes of institutions Israel Chemicals is a very attractive asset and we hope to receive a good price," Steiger said.

The bonds would be offered in a private issue to Israeli institutional investors. Those investors usually include provident funds, pension funds, banks and insurance companies. "If foreign investors would show interest in the offering we might consider selling to them as well," Steiger said.

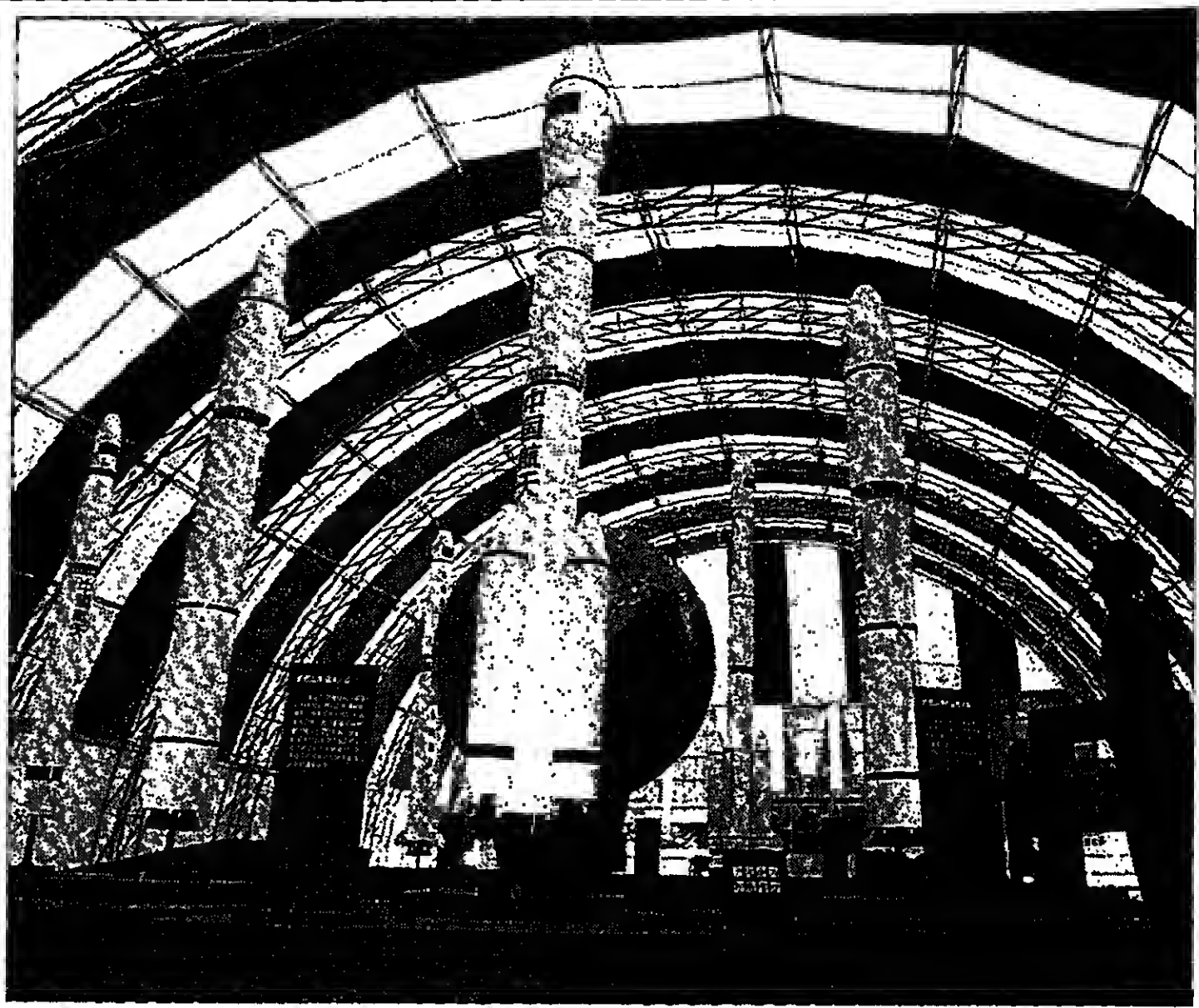
The bond issue, which will carry an interest rate of 1.5 percent, will replace existing dollar-linked loans. The bonds' principal and interest are linked to the consumer price index. The conversion price of the shares is NIS 5.15, which is 23% above the current price of Israel Chemicals shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Market.

Israel Corp., one of the country's largest holding companies, increased its stake in Israel Chemicals from 25% to 42% last March. The company bought the additional 17% of the chemicals and fertilizer producer from the government for NIS 666.9 million.

Before March, 49% of Israel Chemicals was held by the government, and 26% traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The company exercised the option only one day after the sudden death of Shaul Eisenberg, the owner of the Israel Corp. and chairman of the board.

Israel Chemicals is the nation's largest chemical group and a leading exporter.

The offering of convertible bonds has recently become a popular method for local companies seeking to raise money.



China shows off

Visitors to an exhibition marking China's industrial, technological, commercial and agricultural progress over the last five years look at a display of Chinese-made space vehicles at Beijing's Exhibition Center earlier this week. The exhibition, coinciding with the People's Party Congress, features exhibits from all over the country.

(Reuters)

Egypt places embargo on Israeli chicken

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Officials were puzzled by Egypt's reported announcement yesterday that it would embargo imports of frozen chicken from Israel for fear the meat could be tainted with Newcastle disease.



Naftali Yaniv, spokesman for the Agriculture Ministry, said the report was "really ridiculous," saying Egypt has never purchased any frozen chicken from Israel.

Yaniv said that Egypt does import some chicks and eggs from Israel, and that none of these orders have been canceled.

Yesterday Israel Radio reported that a communique was circulated in Egypt saying the country would no longer import frozen chicken from Israel because the meat was contaminated with a dangerous viral infection.

Mohammed Bassiouy, the

Egyptian ambassador, attributed the reports to a rumor mill run by opponents of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

"I never heard anything about Egypt canceling any orders," Bassiouy said.

"We should not escalate the propaganda both sides are conducting against one another. The peace is too important," he added.

The European Union had temporarily halted poultry imports from Israel in July, when Newcastle disease was detected in chickens at a private farm near Ashkelon.

The ban was lifted after Israel's chief veterinarian guaranteed that infected meat would not be sold.

David Kriss, a spokesman for the European Union, said he was "puzzled" by the report from Egypt.

He said that "the problem between Israel and the EU was completely resolved about a month ago. There are now no restrictions on Israeli exports on any fowl to the EU."

Newcastle disease causes a nervous respiratory disorder in poultry, Yaniv said it is not harmful to human beings.

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NO TELEPHONE SUBMISSIONS

Gov't puts ceiling on Bezeq overseas rates

By JUDY SIEGEL

Since Bezeq International's share of overseas calls has fallen below 60 percent, the Communications Ministry yesterday said it would fix a maximum rate ceiling, just like it has for Barak and Golden Lines.

The move could reduce pressure for rate competition and instead fuel competition over quality and range of services.

The three companies would be allowed to lower prices within limits. The ministry declined to specify Bezeq International's market share, but said the figure was calculated by monitoring the length of overseas calls over the past 28 days.

The ceiling rate restriction would be lifted if Bezeq International sur-

passes the 60% mark again, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, Bezeq International's managing director, Ori Yogeve, predicted yesterday that the demand for data transmission would double in the next two years and triple by 2002.

Yogeve told a marketing strategy conference in Tel Aviv that the volume of data transmissions between Israel and foreign points reaches 60 megabytes per second and is worth \$35 million a year.

He predicted that the cost of transmitting computer data would drop significantly to an annual turnover of \$60 million by 2002.

Bezeq International is preparing for changing market conditions and looking into purchasing new technologies, he said.

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September 11, 1997 Thursday

Real estate

MISHTANIM LEADING STOCK MARKET ISSUES

LAST CHANGE

Table of stock market issues with columns for stock name, price, and last change.

Table of stock market issues with columns for stock name, price, and last change.

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Table of stock market issues with columns for stock name, price, and last change.

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION FUND

Table of Karam Small Capitalization Fund issues with columns for stock name, price, and last change.

Due to technical problems, International share data are not available. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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Compaq looks to become one of world's top computer makers

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Compaq Computer Corp. said yesterday it plans to become one of the world's three biggest computer makers, a goal that will involve doubling sales by the year 2000.

"We are looking forward to what Compaq has staked out as its next big goal, which is to be among the top three in the whole computer industry, which really means doubling our revenues from our current base within the next three years," Chief Executive Eckhard Pfeiffer said.

Pfeiffer made the comment in a telephone interview to discuss the naming of Roel Pieper as top sales executive.

Pieper, senior vice president and general manager of worldwide sales, marketing, service and support, joined Compaq from recently acquired Tandem, where he was chief executive.

Pieper will report directly to Pfeiffer.

With the addition of Tandem, Compaq will have to raise its revenues to a level approaching \$50 billion by 2000 in order to meet its goal, from about \$18b. in 1996.

Pfeiffer said analysts were expecting the company to report revenues of \$22b. to \$23b., to which Tandem will add about \$2b.

Compaq, already the world's top seller of personal computers, ranks fifth globally among computer makers overall.

At about \$25b., its 1997 revenues would be a third of the \$76b. in sales last year by International Business Machines Corp., the world's largest computer maker.

For the third quarter, Compaq's performance remains on target, Pfeiffer said. A year ago, Compaq earned \$350 million, or \$1.26 a share, on sales of \$4.48b.

Wall Street

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended sharply lower yesterday as Wall Street worried over the next quarterly earnings of computer giant International Business Machines Corp. and a weak bond market.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average was off 132.63 points, or 1.7 percent, at 7,719.28 and the Nasdaq composite index fell 16.95 points to 1,639.27, snapping three straight sessions of record closes.

In the broader market, declining issues swamped advances 17-10 on active volume of 521 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

of 20 stocks slipped 0.37% to 98.76.

"People prefer to wait a little for the results" of Albright's visit, said Shmuel Shkedy, trader at Pacific Mediterranean Securities in Herzliya. Investors don't think much will come out

Europe

of the talks, he added.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 156.4 million of shares were traded. More than two shares gained for each declining issue. Bank Leumi, the busiest issue with NIS 9.4m. in transactions, declined 1.75% to NIS 5.85.

Koor Industries Ltd. dropped to NIS 378.62 and Clal Israel Ltd. rose 1% to NIS 1.1. The Antitrust Authority informed the holding companies that they are being investigated for operating as a cartel because of their partnership in a building materials company.

The stock market also is starting to look forward to the release of the consumer price index for August, due on Monday, Shkedy

Tel Aviv

Stocks declined yesterday as investors assessed the visit of the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the Middle East. The Maof Index slipped 0.63 percent to 298.06. The Mishmanim Index eased 0.47% to 291.04. The Tel Aviv Continuous Trading Index

STOCKS

Maof 289.06 ▼ 0.63%
Dow Jones 7719 ▼ 1.7%
FTSE 4905 ▼ 0.92%
Nikkei 18704.77 ▲ 0.05%

Asia

but in a worst-case scenario" the base rate could rise to 7.5% from 7.0%, Ayre said.

The FTSE 100 Index dropped 45.3 points, or 0.92%, to 4905.2, extending losses earlier in the day after the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell as much as 0.91% before the UK market closed. The broader FTSE 250 Index fell 12.3 points to 4664.7.

Breaking the market trend, United News & Media Plc rose 26.5 to 745. The print and electronic publisher said earnings per share rose 15% in the first half to 24.4 as pretax profit jumped 15% to £174m.

The rise in earnings proves the company's ability to cut costs and meet most profit margin targets following the merger last year with the financial-services company MAI Group Plc, analysts said.

As exports fell amid concern a weaker dollar will hurt earnings, offsetting gains by Minieba Co. and DDI Corp. Nissan Motor

Co., Sharp Corp. and Konica Corp. paced decliners.

The dollar's 2% tumble against the yen late Tuesday raised concern exporters may be forced to increase prices overseas, or accept narrower profit margins. But some money managers see the decline as short-lived.

"The yen's rise has sparked some profit-taking of exporters. These companies won't drop a whole lot more, though," said Takao Endo, who helps manage 1.4 trillion yen (\$12b.) as executive managing director at Asahi Investment Trust Management Co.

"I don't see the yen continuing to rise, and investors will understand that Toyota and Sony will still have good earnings."

The benchmark Nikkei 225 Stock Average rose 8.8, or 0.05%, to 18,704.77. The broader Topix index of all shares on the first section fell 0.18, or 0.01%, to 1441.03.

An estimated 335 million shares traded on the first section, well below the three-month daily average of 375 million. Gainers and decliners were evenly split. (Bloomberg)

AOL's Hub to announce direct music sales next week

By SUE ZEIDLER

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - The Hub, a music site on America Online Inc., plans to be the next provider to jump on the digital downloading bandwagon with a deal next week to let fans buy songs at their computers with a push of a button.

The Hub, a joint venture between AOL and New Line Cinema Corp., is teaming up with software firm Liquid Audio Inc., which just announced a deal for Capitol Records to sell a Duran Duran single at the label's site, said Marshall Klein, director of business affairs for the Hub.

The Hub will be among several retailers offering that single. It will also sell songs by other labels as well.

"Right now our deal is with independent labels, but we're also hoping to attach ourselves to larger labels," said Klein, noting the Hub averages about 2.7 million visits a month.

EMI Group Plc's Capitol's announcement this week was sig-

nificant because it was the first major label to sell a release directly over the Internet before it hit stores.

Industry analysts projected the online music market may expand to about \$500m. by 2000 from about \$47m. in 1997.

Other major labels have online services that encourage consumers to order recordings to be shipped by mail. But they have been hesitant to sell new releases directly on the Web for fear of alienating retailers.

Obscure artists and independent labels have been quicker to embrace the technology as a way to reach a wider audience.

"These deals are going to change the music industry. With people being able to buy music online, it's going to change the way the music industry works," said Klein.

Another reason for the music industry's trepidation is the fear of piracy. These deals with Capitol and the Hub come just as the recording industry gears up to testify in Congress this month about copyright piracy in the digital age.

Dollar weakens as Japan-US trade ties worsen

The dollar hovered near lows against the yen yesterday after comments from US officials indicated that trade relations between the US and Japan are worsening.

The dollar briefly slipped after a US official, who asked not to be named, said that Japan should boost its domestic demand through deregulation. That echoed Tuesday's remarks made by US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Deputy Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and suggested the US may temper the rise in the dollar.

Losses the yen suffered against the mark pushed the dollar lower against the German currency, traders said. That made the dollar erase its earlier gains against the mark following a report on German

growth, which allayed concern the Bundesbank will raise interest rates soon.

The dollar was quoted at 119.06 yen, little changed from an earlier low of 118.85 yen. It slipped to 1,805.5 marks from an earlier high of 1,816.9.

The mark rose in the US to 66.0250 yen from an earlier low of 65.435 yen in European trading, triggered by a series of computer-driven orders to buy marks at 66 yen, traders said.

Rubin said boosting Japan's economy through domestic demand rather than exports "is a very substantial challenge for Japan. It's very important for Japan and the United States and the rest of the world that this challenge be

CURRENCIES

Dollar 151.04
Basket 3.7582 ▲ 0.11%
Mark 1.9465 ▲ 0.58%
Sterling 5.5707 ▼ 0.07%

prompted speculation the US would put more pressure on Japan to reduce its exports and might soften its policy of supporting a strong dollar.

"The yen has now weakened by more than 7 percent against the dollar since mid-June, making Japanese goods cheaper abroad. Still, the closeness of the G-7 meeting is causing nervousness, but once it is out of the way and despite rhetoric, there is very little authorities can do," said Jeremy Stretch, a currency strategist at NatWest Markets.

The Ministry of Finance is expected to report today that Japan's current account surplus soared 75.3% in July, compared to where it was the same month a year

ago. Concern about Japan's economy also may intensify, as the Japanese government is likely to report that the world's second-largest economy shrank 1.5% in the April-June quarter, according to a Bloomberg News survey. Still, some analysts expect the dollar will regain momentum against the yen amid expectations the Bank of Japan won't be able to raise the discount rate, currently at an all-time low of 0.5%, any time this year, given the weakness of the Japanese economy.

"Inevitably, dollar-yen will edge higher because Japanese rates are staying where they are," said Stretch. "The only option for Japan is export-led growth. Their hands are pretty much tied." (Bloomberg)

Oil up as US crude supplies decline

Oil prices rose yesterday as crude supplies in the region west of the Rockies that doesn't affect eastern prices, October Brent on the International Petroleum Exchange rose 13 cents to \$18.41 a barrel.

Brent crude oil values rose, driven higher by a fall in US crude supplies that was twice the biggest expected decline in a survey of brokers Tuesday. That could bring an increase in demand for European crude oil; the 2.6% decline in crude supplies comes as refiners start to switch from maximum gasoline production to heating oil output as cooler weather arrives. Refinery utilization fell, though it's still the third-highest level on record.

Even though crude supplies fell so much, the effect on prices was cushioned by a 4.4% rise in dislocated stockpiles, which include heating oil, and that 40% of the

crude decline was in the region west of the Rockies that doesn't affect eastern prices, October Brent on the International Petroleum Exchange rose 13 cents to \$18.41 a barrel.

Platinum prices rose and palladium prices fell in interbank trading. Spot platinum rose 80 cents to \$425.50 an ounce. Spot palladium fell \$1.25 to \$188.25 an ounce. Gold prices were little changed. Gold for immediate delivery was traded 45 cents lower at \$321.05 an ounce.

COMMODITIES

Gold \$321.35 ▼ 0.15%
Crude Oil \$18.34 ▲ 0.06%
CRB 242.06 ▼ 0.25%

White sugar futures fell to their lowest price in eight weeks amid expectations for a large European sugar beet crop. Last week, ED&F Man Sugar Ltd. said the EU sugar crop, to be harvested from October, will exceed the estimated production of 16.55 million tons, white value, last year. The company

wasn't more specific about its forecast for the size of the crop. This summer's weather, a mixture of rain and hot, sunny spells, has been ideal for the development of European sugar beet crops.

White sugar for October delivery recently traded \$1.90 a metric ton lower at \$318.50 a ton, having earlier fallen as low as \$317.20.

Copper climbed after closing at its lowest price in nine months on Tuesday, amid expectations that strong economic growth in the US will boost demand for copper in coming months. Late Tuesday, the US Census Bureau reported that inventories of goods at wholesalers fell in July, while sales unexpectedly rose 0.5% on strong demand for copper products such as machinery and electrical equip-

ment. Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange rose \$14 to \$2,150 a metric ton.

Zinc prices fell on the London Metal Exchange. Zinc stockpiles monitored by the LME rose 1,700 tons to 375,750 tons Tuesday, the exchange said in its latest warehouse daily report. On Tuesday, analysts warned that the recent plunge in the zinc stockpile to its lowest point for almost five years may be part of an attempt to manipulate the market. They said the drop is probably part of a struggle between Chinese smelters, who face large potential losses after selling zinc they didn't own. Three-month zinc recently traded \$13.50 a metric ton lower at \$1,464.50 a ton. (Bloomberg)

US bonds fall amid corporate debt sales

US bonds fell for a second day as investors braced for sales of about \$15 billion in corporate and asset-backed debt, and showed concern about the pace of economic growth.

Korea Development Bank and Venezuela are each expected to sell \$1 billion of bonds. By the end of the week, NationsBank Corp. plans to sell \$4 billion of asset-backed securities and Gap Inc. plans to issue \$500 million. A string of junk-rated companies are also preparing sales.

"We've seen a lot of selling as hedges" before the corporate issues, said Vince Verterano, head government bond trader at Nomura Securities International Inc.

Wall Street firms underwriting

corporate debt often sell Treasuries to protect against possible losses if interest rates rise before the corporate sales are completed.

The benchmark 30-year bond declined 7/32 or \$2.19 per \$1,000 bond, to 96 17/32, pushing its yield up 2 basis point to 6.64 percent. The two-year note's yield was little changed at 5.96%.

Corporate and asset-backed sales come amid concern that price and retail sales reports tomorrow may suggest consumer spending will cause inflation to accelerate.

Bonds may slump in the next few days on "expectations of strong retail sales data," said Gianpaolo Mosconi, a bond analyst at Sanwa International in

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield 6.64 ▲ 0.02%

London. Eveso so, bonds would be a good buy if yields rise because

much by the end of the year, so they're turning to mortgage and corporate bonds, which offer higher returns than government bonds.

Fed Chairman "Alan Greenspan's got it absolutely right," said Stewart Cowley, who oversees about \$13 billion of fixed-income securities at Hill Samuel Asset Management. Given the likelihood that inflation will remain subdued and the central bank won't have to raise interest rates anytime soon, he's turning to other types of bonds.

Tomorrow the government will release its producer price index and its report on retail sales for August, which will give Fed policy makers fresh insight into the state of the US economy.

Many traders and investors are concerned that signs of strong consumer demand could lead to an acceleration of inflation, prompting the central bank to raise borrowing costs before year-end. Retail sales, a key gauge because consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of overall growth, probably rose by 0.6% in August, according to a Bloomberg News survey, following gains of 0.6% in July and 0.7% in June.

Producer prices in August are expected to show their first increase in seven months, reflecting higher gasoline prices, according to economists surveyed by Bloomberg News. The PPI probably rose 0.3% after falling 0.1% in July, economists said. (Bloomberg)

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (3.9.97)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	4.875	5.250
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.250	5.375	5.750
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.875	2.375
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.900	0.125	0.500

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates** (10.9.97)

CURRENCY AND TRANSFERS	CHECKS AND BANKNOTES		Rep.	Rates**
	Buy	Sell		
Currency basket	3.7274	3.7576	—	3.7582
U.S. dollar	3.4668	3.5427	3.42	3.5140
German mark	1.9278	1.9887	1.89	1.9466
Pound sterling	5.5266	5.6168	5.43	5.5707
French franc	0.5731	0.5824	0.56	0.5789
Japanese yen (100)	2.8326	2.8799	2.86	2.8515
Dutch florin	1.7113	1.7380	1.68	1.7281
Swiss franc	2.3196	2.3644	2.30	2.3694
Swedish krona	0.4481	0.4523	0.43	0.4488
Norwegian krona	0.4984	0.4758	0.48	0.4721
Danish krone	0.5055	0.5145	0.48	0.5112
Canadian dollar	0.6439	0.6543	0.63	0.6200
Australian dollar	2.5355	2.5784	2.49	2.5380
S. African rand	2.5452	2.5883	2.50	2.5599
Belgian franc (10)	0.7413	0.7533	0.87	0.7471
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9332	0.9483	0.81	0.9262
Italian lire (1000)	2.7382	2.7834	2.89	2.7662
Jordanian dinar	1.8760	2.0069	1.96	2.0340
Egyptian pound	4.8139	4.9332	4.85	5.15
ECU	0.8900	1.0800	0.89	1.0762
Irish punt	3.7886	3.8437	—	3.8157
Spanish peseta (100)	5.1814	5.2782	5.10	5.2411
	2.2867	2.3236	2.24	2.3074

**These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

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Jerusalem: Hypercol, 24 Kanfei Nesharim, 652-2368; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2028.

Tel Aviv: Clal Pharm Gan Ha'ir, 71 Ibn Gvirol, 527-9317; Kupat Holim Maccabi, 7 Ha-Shtia, 546-5558. Till midnight; Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einsteim, 641-3730; London Ministers Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115.

Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Kupat Holim Clalit, 8 Harashat, Hod Hasharon, 748-1175.

Netanya: Trufa, 2 Herzl, 882-8556. Haifa: Habankim, 5 Habankim, 851-3005.

Kiryat area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.

Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Ma'aki (onc. Serot Haganim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lav Ha'ir Mall, 857-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Jerusalem: Eikur Holim (Internal, ENT); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics, ophthalmology).

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HAIFA
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Davis Cup tie stays at Ramat Hasharon

By HEATHER CHAIT

The Davis Cup tie between Israel and Morocco will take place, as scheduled, at Ramat Hasharon from September 19-21. Morocco's second attempt to move the venue from Ramat Hasharon to a neutral country was rejected again yesterday when the ITF's Management Committee, meeting in New York, re-confirmed their earlier decision not to relocate the tie.

The ITF had ruled last week that they were satisfied with the security

arrangements in Israel but in the wake of last Thursday's terror attack in Jerusalem and the security situation in Lebanon, the Moroccans chose to repeat their request to tennis's world governing body.

A copy of the fax, sent yesterday to the Moroccan Tennis Federation, was also received by Yair Engel, Director General of the Israel Tennis Association.

"The ruling does not surprise us. We have been hard at work with all the necessary arrangements to host the Moroccan team throughout this time," said Engel.

Tigers stop Rangers

DETROIT (AP) - Scott Sanders pitched a one-hitter, allowing only a fifth-inning single to Domingo Cedeño, for his first career shutout as the Detroit Tigers defeated the Texas Rangers 4-0 Tuesday.

Sanders (5-12), just 1-6 with a 6.04 ERA in 10 previous starts with Detroit, struck out one season-high eight and walked one.

Sanders retired the first 14 batters before Cedeño singled cleanly to left-center field with two outs in the fifth. Sanders set down the next 12 hitters before walking Tom

Goodwin with two outs in the ninth.

The right-hander's other win since the Tigers obtained him July 18 in a trade with Seattle was Aug. 9 at Toronto. His only other win as a starter this year was May 26 at Minnesota in his final start for the Mariners.

Rookie Juan Encarnacion hit a two-run triple for the Tigers, who swept the two-game series and won for the ninth time in their last 12 games. Texas has lost five in a row, scoring just four runs in that span.

National League				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	30	34	.465	-
Breith	29	35	.450	1/2
New York	27	44	.382	10 1/2
Montreal	27	41	.398	7 1/2
Pittsburgh	25	43	.366	9 1/2
St. Louis	25	43	.366	9 1/2
San Diego	25	43	.366	9 1/2
San Francisco	25	43	.366	9 1/2
Washington	25	43	.366	9 1/2
Philadelphia	24	44	.353	10 1/2
Cincinnati	24	44	.353	10 1/2
Chicago	24	44	.353	10 1/2
Colorado	24	44	.353	10 1/2
Florida	24	44	.353	10 1/2
Los Angeles	24	44	.353	10 1/2
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1997-98 BASKETBALL SEASON PREVIEW

The National Basketball League tips off its 45th season tonight, in the first of 22 weeks of regular-season action. Eli Groner gives his team previews and predictions

MACCABI TEL AVIV

Coach: Vinko Jelovac
Roster: Rashard Griffith, Randy White, Nadav Henefeld, Oded Katash, Doron Sheffer, Borko Radovich, Constantin Popa, Derrick Sharp, Brad Leaf, Andre Zelinbaba, Baruch Shremban, Gadi Yarom
European Competition: EuroLeague
Balance: Every member of the Maccabi Tel Aviv's starting five averaged double figures in scoring last year.

First the good news: this is a better team than last year's. The bad news: the rest of the elite European teams have improved as well. All this means that Maccabi should find it difficult to crack the EuroLeague Final Four.

Although the organization's unprecedented success in the last quarter century cannot be denied, one wonders what Maccabi could have done in international play if its management wasn't always so tense and panicky.

This year, that could change. For the first time in recent memory, Maccabi's coach was talking about preseason progress, and not the preseason win-loss record. Zvi Sherf was quick to brag about last year's 16-0 run in the preseason, but a basketball season is a marathon, and Maccabi ended up losing in the EuroLeague round-of-16. Chairman Shimon Mizrahi has learned his lesson and will give Jelovac the benefit of the doubt. This year, Mizrahi's looking to get past Pilsen, in the playoffs.

HAPOEL EILAT

Coach: Moshe Weinkrantz
Roster: Derrick Hamilton, Eddie Elisema, Amir Katz, Joe Dawson, Meir Japrov, Yisrael Elimelech, Maxim Kropchev, Guy Zenou, Yoram Ashkenazi, Harel Gadiel, Aviel Yitzhak, Chris Chabot
European Competition: EuroCup
Close encounters: Nine of Eilat's 22 games last year were decided by five points or less.

In the summer of 1995, Yisrael Elimelech returned to Maccabi to end his career where he had started it. Two years later, Elimelech has left Maccabi once again, although the reason is the same: he wants to win.

He got to the right place. Last year, Eilat jelled in the second half of the season, winning nine of its last 12 games to finish the season in fourth place. Eilat has a good mixture of both inside players and outside shooters, youthful talent and veteran experience. With the additions of Derrick Hamilton and Eddie Elisema, along with the reliable Amir Katz and Joe Dawson, Eilat should have its best season ever. The pick here is that the guard rotation will provide enough spark to surprise everyone, propelling Eilat just inside Jerusalem into second place in the standings.

HAPOEL JERUSALEM

Coach: Gadi Kedar
Roster: Radisav Curcic, Kenny Williams, Momo Djordjevic, Adi Gordon, El Waldman, Doron Shefa, Jesse Rosenfield, Danny Guter, Yoram Yashlan, Eyal Ben-Moni, Levi Musa Bashir
European Competition: EuroLeague
Score and score often: When Jerusalem scored over 80 points last year, the opponent scored 13-3, less than 80, 2-9.

One of the keys to Jerusalem's season will be the ability to handle the tiresome weekly European travel, while maintaining focus on local league play. Jerusalem will also have to maintain a balance - not getting too down after the inevitable EuroLeague blowouts, or too high after a big win (there is one).

One worrisome omen is that the least optimistic player on the team is Momi Daniel, the former Maccabi Tel Aviv forward who knows exactly how much fun it is to travel to Spain, get blown out of the water, and come back with a regular basis. It should be a better club than last year's though. Not so much because of the additions of Radisav Curcic and Kenny Williams (Hapoel doesn't realize how much it will miss Dan Bingenheimer), but rather, due to the additional court time of El Waldman.

However, Hapoel still relies too much on Adi Gordon. They rode him to the State Cup title last year. This year it will cost them second place in the standings.

GALIL ELYON

Coach: David Blatt
Roster: Gur Shelef, Abdul Shams-Adin, Andrew Kennedy, Mark Carver, Erez Hazan, Alon Stein, Oren Amiel, Ido Kuziczo, Sharon Sasson, Micha Brahoz, Avishai Gordon, Jack Morton
European Competition: Korac Cup
Team play: Galil Elyon was the only team in the league last year where no player reached 30 points in any single game.

"Why go to a college in the US, when I can stay here and improve my game?" That was the question facing Gur Shelef this offseason, and while most Israelis who adopt this mode of thought are foolhardy, Shelef is not.

PREDICTIONS

Some of the shockers include Eilat finishing ahead of Jerusalem, both leagues newcomers finishing in the top nine, a strong performance from Herzliya and disappointments from Rishon, Givat Shmuel and Ramat Gan. One thing is almost as certain as death and taxes: Maccabi Tel Aviv will cruise to its 39th championship.

Shelef is one of the few Israelis that a club can build a team around, and by staying with Galil, Shelef has ensured a competitive year for coach David Blatt's club. Shelef's return is along with that of three other starters - isn't the only similarity for the sake of the club, though, expect Galil to be in the final four.

MACCABI RA'ANANA

Coach: Amir Shabat
Roster: Tomer Shalman, Mark Brisker, Paul Thompson, Rotem Ehrlich, Barak Niv, Ben, Amir Ben-David
European Competition: EuroCup
No. 1 pick: Yoram Yashlan was the only Ra'anana guard who shot over 50% from the charity stripe.

What's the sign for next year? Sort of. Reaching the semifinals was no fluke, but it remains to be seen if the team that as recently as two years ago was in the Second Division, can maintain among the league's elite.

Expect a slight drop in form for two reasons: first of all, it is unrealistic to expect Yashlan to be the league's MVP two years in a row. Second, and more importantly, Rotem Ehrlich provided Ra'anana with a huge mid-season spark after coming over from Hapoel Safed folded. This year, Ehrlich is a known quantity, and his many weaknesses, especially his awful jump shot - will work against his club.

BNEI HERZLIYA

Coach: Erez Edelstein
Roster: Daniel Robinson, Terrence Rancher, Lior Arditi, Amir Muhtari, Uri Cohen, Mitzel, Miki Mizrahi, Tal Bornstein, Yaniv Green, Yoni Hemo, Dani Yitzhak, Omer Ben-Zion
European Competition: Korac Cup
Disappointing: Doree Lerner finished bottom of the league in assists last year, at 17.3 per game. Forty-four percent of those were from the now-departed Terrence Stansbury.

Shelef was way too high to pick Herzliya - a team that escaped relegation in the last year of its existence. Moreover, pundits are claiming that Herzliya made the wrong call to opt for a 10th-place finish. The loss of coach Mufi Katzirzin and the loss of Stansbury further weakens the club.

Don't be surprised if a middle-of-the-table finish for coach Erez Edelstein's club. Eilat and Jerusalem should be the same things for Edelstein that he did for Tom Shelef - a place to score and score often. Rancher should be the focal point of this offense, and at least one touch on almost every possession. If Lior Arditi can stay on top of his game and Uri Cohen-Mizrahi shows more than just flashes of national-team caliber play, Herzliya can upset.

The downside is that the league is very evenly matched, and a couple of post-showings can leave this club fighting off relegation.

MACCABI RISHON LEZION

Coach: Phil Gershon
Roster: Dennis Henderson, Brad Sellers, Kobi Balul, Nir Matalon, Doron Jamchee, Alon Niv, Chris McCabrey, Gary Kedem, Gilad Katz, Yaniv Gold, Dan Becker, Sa'ar
European Competition: Korac Cup
Arnie's note: Rishon had more three-point attempts than anyone last year (338, or 16.9 per game), but finished only sixth in percentage.

Nobody is happier to see the playoff format expand this year - from four to eight teams - than Phil Gershon. Rishon has been the most consistent under-achiever in the last several years, annually just missing the cut.

This year's pre-season optimism appears to be more of the same. Although Gershon's arrival has generated more final-four talk, expect another year of disappointment.

Gershon, while being an astute judge of talent, has a penchant for overrating his own abilities as a coach. On the court, the lack of an intimidating big man and a capable point guard will hurt the club. At least a playoff spot is assured - unless, of course, Rishon finishes ninth.

MACCABI NETANYA

EuroLeague hopes

Seven Israeli teams will participate in European competition this year, including Maccabi Tel Aviv and Hapoel Jerusalem in the EuroLeague. This will be the first time that two Israeli clubs will be in the prestigious league.

Maccabi Tel Aviv - Since reaching the Final Four in 1991 (and getting thrashed by Barcelona, 101-67), Maccabi hasn't made it back to the promised land.

While team members aren't being too vocal about their return plans, Rashard Griffith broke the silence recently, saying that his goal is to win the whole shebang.

Tel Aviv is in arguably the most difficult division in the EuroLeague. The six-team bracket includes defending champion Olympiakos (Greece), Efes Pilsen (Turkey) - which eliminated Maccabi last year in the round-of-16 - Real Madrid (Spain), winners of last year's European Cup Competition, Limoges (France) and CSKA Moscow (Russia).

Fortunately for Maccabi, the EuroLeague doesn't end after one round, and with a little luck, they just might end the 10-game first stage as one of the top three teams in this bracket.

Hapoel Jerusalem - The capital club has much less reason to be optimistic. While the EuroLeague newcomers should do more damage than last year's worst league entrant, Charlier (Belgium), the question is by how much?

Jerusalem should get swept by division rivals Kinder Bologna and Barcelona, and will be hard-pressed to beat Ulker, Partizan, Beograd and Pau Ortez at home. Any finish other than sixth would be an achievement, but the bet is that Jerusalem will lose Israel's second spot in the EuroLeague by 1998-99.

1996-97 season honors

National League playoff champions (EuroLeague slot)	Maccabi Tel Aviv
State Cup winners and league playoff runners-up (EuroLeague slot)	Hapoel Jerusalem
League semi-final playoff losers (EuroCup slot)	Maccabi Ra'anana, Hapoel Eilat
League 5th-7th-place finishers (Korac Cup slot)	Hapoel Galil Elyon, Maccabi Rishon Lezion, Bnei Herzliya
Relegated	Hapoel Tel Aviv
Promoted from Second Division	Maccabi Kiryat Motzkin, Maccabi Netanya

State Cup, post-season schedule

Dates of State Cup play	
Last-32	September 4, September 7, 1997
Last-16	October 16, October 19, 1997
Quarterfinals	December 14, December 21, 1997
Semi-finals	March 19, 1998
Final	April 9, 1998
Dates of post-season playoffs	
The top eight league finishers in league play will begin a best-of-five playoff series starting April 5	

EuroCup prospects

The EuroCup competition format is based on 48 teams divided into eight groups. Each team plays its group opponents home and away with the top four out of six teams from each group advancing to the next round.

Maccabi Ra'anana - Making its debut in Europe, should move on to the group of 32. Despite being grouped with Greece's Panathinaikos, everybody's favorite to win the cup (and one of the best teams in Europe), Ra'anana should finish with a record better than that of Suba St. Poljana (Austria) and Pezomok (Slovakia). Other teams in Group H are Autodor (Russia) and Budivelnick (Ukraine).

Hapoel Eilat - Israel's other EuroCup representative, is in a much more balanced division. Here too, there is a clear winner (Stefanel Milano), but four teams - Beotanas (Yugoslavia), Rhodorf (Germany), the London Towers (Britain) and Eilat - should compete for the other three spots. It appears that the competition will be too stiff for Hapoel (Hungary).

EuroCup play begins on Tuesday, 16.9. Israel's representatives open the competition at home.

Korac Cup chances

No less than 106 clubs competed for the 64 spots available in the Korac Cup. The 64 finalists will be divided into 16 four-team divisions, with the top two advancing to the next stage.

Hapoel Galil Elyon, Bnei Herzliya and Maccabi Rishon Lezion have all been placed in their respective divisions, but preliminary round action has yet to determine their final division opponents.

It appears that Galil Elyon will get the easiest bracket: Limasol (Cyprus) and Papagay (Greece) are far from being European powers. And the winner of the Czechoslovakia-Dinamo Belgrade contest shouldn't intimidate anybody. Expect the underdogs to advance.

The only team that Herzliya knows it will face is Korasid (Greece). The odds are, though, that one of its other opponents will be the old Star Belgrade - which defeated Maccabi Tel Aviv in the previous season in London, a prospect that makes advancement unlikely.

Rishon is grouped with Banca di Roma, Helios Domana (Slovakia) and, in all likelihood, Vitoria Nottisad (Czechoslovakia). Rishon is the clear favorite in this division, leaving Rishon little chance for error against the other two opponents.

Korac Cup competition begins on September 30.

League top scorers

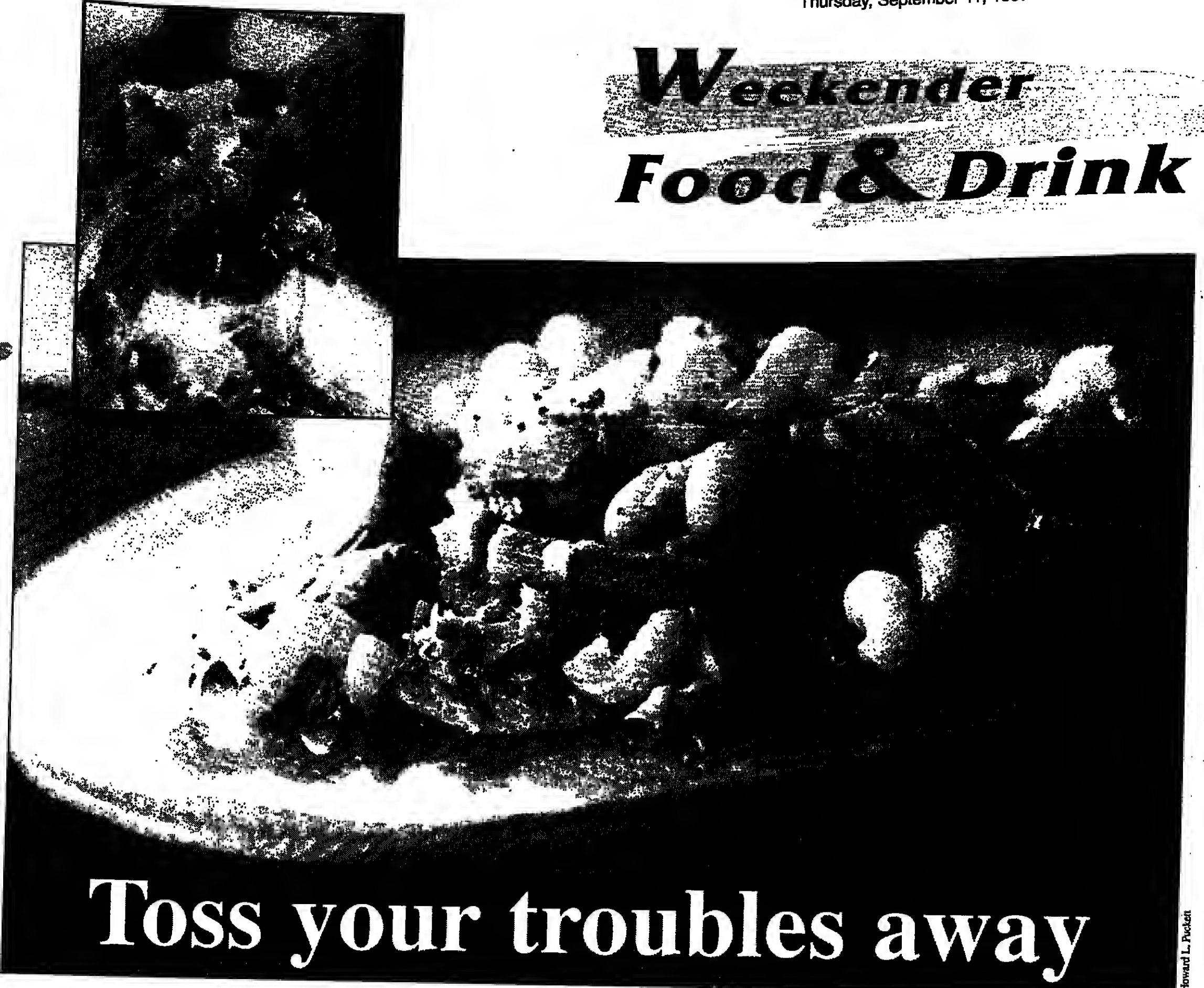
1994	Aravah Scheer (Maccabi Tel Aviv) 196	1999	Raim Buchbinder (Maccabi Haifa) 219
1995	Freddy Coton (Hapoel Holon) 197	1990	Eyal Eshed (Hapoel Holon) 258
1996	Freddy Coton (Hapoel Holon) 203	1991	Gali Kichor (Hapoel Nir David) 267
1997	Amos Lupfer (Hapoel Holon) 243	1992	Gali Kichor (Hapoel Nir David) 264
1998	Reuven Bahadur (Maccabi Pezah Tikva) 234	1993	Yotam Kishon (Hapoel Nir David) 260
1999	Ami Shelef (Hapoel Givat Shimon) 222	1994	Steve Kaplan (Hapoel Ramat Gan) 250
1990	Albert Hemo (Hapoel Haifa) 207	1995	Steve Kaplan (Hapoel Ramat Gan) 254
1991	Ofer Eshed (Hapoel Holon) 204	1996	Steve Kaplan (Hapoel Ramat Gan) 242
1992	Ofer Eshed (Hapoel Holon) 203	1997	Steve Kaplan (Hapoel Ramat Gan) 216
1993	Ofer Eshed (Hapoel Holon) 201	1998	Steve Kaplan (Hapoel Ramat Gan) 212
1994	Shimon Luraki (Maccabi Pezah Tikva) 201	1999	Steve Kaplan (Hapoel Ramat Gan) 210
1995	Ofer Eshed (Hapoel Holon) 198	2000	Steve Kaplan (Hapoel Ramat Gan) 208
1996	Raim Buchbinder (Maccabi Haifa) 198	2001	Raim Buchbinder (Maccabi Haifa) 198
1997	Raim Buchbinder (Maccabi Haifa) 198	2002	Raim Buchbinder (Maccabi Haifa) 198
1998	Raim Buchbinder (Maccabi Haifa) 198	2003	Raim Buchbinder (Maccabi Haifa) 198

1997-98 National League regular season schedule

September 11 (and January 4*)		September 28 (January 25)		October 26 (February 15)		November 16 (March 22)	
Gali Elyon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Maccabi Tel Aviv	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Maccabi Ra'anana	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Hapoel Jerusalem	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Hapoel Eilat	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Maccabi Kiryat Motzkin	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Maccabi Netanya	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Bnei Herzliya	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Hapoel Tel Aviv	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Hapoel Jerusalem	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Hapoel Eilat	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Maccabi Kiryat Motzkin	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Maccabi Netanya	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Bnei Herzliya	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Hapoel Tel Aviv	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Hapoel Jerusalem	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Hapoel Eilat	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Maccabi Kiryat Motzkin	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Maccabi Netanya	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon
Bnei Herzliya	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon	Hapoel Holon	vs. Hapoel Holon

* Dates in parentheses are with the home team reversed
Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Chai Levin

Weekender Food & Drink



Toss your troubles away

By JANET FLETCHER

When you're tired, hungry and want dinner on the table, these one-dish pasta tosses do the trick. Throw in some of this, a little of that, and you'll have a spontaneous meal that's sure to excite the senses.

Pasta is of the moment; the Italians have known this for centuries. It needs to be prepared, cooked, tossed and served in one unbroken sweep... tempo presto. Because pasta is so quick and easy, it's an instant tonic; nothing can beat it for eating after work, when body and soul need rejuvenation. And few other foods have its ability to excite the senses, from the earthy feel and heady smell of the ingredients as you saute them to the warm rush of steam rising from the cooked pasta after it lands in the colander.

Although pasta is ideally a shared experience, it is also wonderful for eating all by yourself, especially if you need comforting.

The recipes below are based on springtime ingredients such as arugula, asparagus and new potatoes. Pasta inspires improvisation, so the recipes call for a diverse array of pantry staples.

As for convenience, most of these recipes are cooked on the stovetop, then tossed and served immediately. All are made with dried pastas - penne, spaghetti, rigatoni and vermicelli, among others - that can produce a wealth of mealtime possibilities. And though they're not listed in any of our recipes, two of the most essential ingredients for successful pasta are passion and spontaneity, which the Italians are never without.

TUNA NICOISE PASTA TOSS

- 2 cups small red potatoes, quartered
- 2 cups green beans, cut into 2.5 cm. pieces
- 3 Tbsp. olive oil, divided
- 1/2 cup diced shallots
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 4 cups uncooked cavatappi (spiral-shaped pasta)
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh or 2 tsp. dried tarragon
- 2 Tbsp. coarse-grained mustard
- 1 Tbsp. white wine vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 can solid white tuna in water, drained
- freshly ground pepper

Place potatoes in a medium saucepan. Cover with water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 7 minutes. Add beans; cook an additional 3 minutes or until beans are crisp-tender. Drain.

Heat 1 Tbsp. oil in saucepan over medium heat. Add shallots; saute 3 minutes. Add potatoes, beans and garlic; cook 3 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Cook pasta according to pack-

age directions, omitting salt and fat. Drain; set aside.

Combine remaining oil, tarragon, mustard, vinegar and salt; stir well. Combine pasta, potato mixture and tuna in a large bowl; toss well. Drizzle mustard mixture over pasta mixture, tossing gently to coat. Serve with freshly ground pepper. (Serves 5.)

PASTA ALFREDO WITH SWISS CHARD

- 1/2 kg. Swiss chard
- 8 ounces uncooked penne (tubular-shaped pasta)
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cup grated fresh Parmesan cheese, divided
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Remove stems and center ribs from Swiss chard. Coarsely chop and then set aside.

Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt and fat. Drain pasta in a colander over a bowl, reserving 1/4 cup cooking liquid. Set aside; keep warm.

Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and saute 30 seconds. Add Swiss chard; saute 3 minutes or until wilted.

Combine the reserved 1/4 cup cooking liquid, ricotta cheese, 2 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese, salt and pepper in a small bowl; stir well.

Combine the pasta, Swiss chard mixture and ricotta cheese mixture and toss well.

Sprinkle with 2 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately. (Serves 4.)

RIGATONI WITH BELL PEPPERS, OLIVES AND FETA

Kalamata olives - dark-purple, almond shaped olives imported from Greece - are used in this Mediterranean-style recipe. Although black olives can be substituted for kalamatas, their flavor will not be as rich and fruity.

- 1/4 cup chopped kalamata olives (about 16)
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh or 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper
- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 2 cups thinly sliced onion
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups red bell pepper strips
- 2 cups green bell pepper strips
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 kg. uncooked rigatoni
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese

Combine first 4 ingredients in a small bowl; set aside.

Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion; saute 3 minutes or until tender. Add garlic; cook 1 minute. Stir in peppers. Cover, reduce heat

and cook 10 minutes. Add 1/2 cup water; cover and simmer an additional 10 minutes or until peppers are tender. Stir in olive mixture; keep warm.

Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt and fat; drain.

Combine pasta and pepper mixture in a large bowl, tossing well. Add feta cheese; toss gently to coat. (Serves 4.)

PASTA PRIMAVERA

The bright green, feathery foliage on the fennel bulb are called fronds. They are chopped up and added to this dish, giving it a subtle licorice flavor.

- 2 cups diagonally sliced carrot
- 2 cups uncooked fusilli (twisted spaghetti)
- 1/4 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup chopped fennel bulb
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced leek (about 1 medium)
- 1 cup red bell pepper strips
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh basil
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh thyme
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup frozen green peas, thawed
- 1/2 cup dry vermouth
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup grated Asiago cheese
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fennel fronds

Steam carrot, covered, 5 minutes or until crisp-tender. Set aside.

Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt and fat. Drain well, and set aside.

Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add fennel; saute 3 minutes. Add leek, peppers, basil, dill, thyme and garlic and saute 5 minutes. Add carrot, peas, vermouth and salt. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 2 minutes.

Combine pasta, vegetable mixture, cheese and fennel fronds in a bowl and toss well. (Serves 6.)

PENNE WITH ROASTED VEGETABLES AND GOAT CHEESE

- 1/4 kg. uncooked penne (tubular shaped pasta)
- 2 cups yellow squash, sliced 1/2 cm. thick
- 2 cups zucchini, sliced 1/2 cm. thick
- 1 cup red onion, thinly sliced and separated into rings
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 4 plum tomatoes, quartered
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup goat cheese
- 3 Tbsp. chopped fresh basil
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. chopped fresh thyme

Preheat oven to 250°. Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt and fat. Drain, and set aside.

Combine squash, zucchini,

onion, oil, salt, pepper, tomatoes and garlic in a large bowl; toss well to coat. Arrange vegetables in a single layer in a jelly-roll pan. Bake at 250° for 20 minutes or until browned, stirring after 10 minutes. Drizzle vinegar over vegetables; toss well.

Combine pasta, vegetable mixture in a large bowl, tossing well. Add feta cheese; toss gently to coat. (Serves 4.)

VERMICELLI STIR-FRY WITH PEANUT SAUCE

You can substitute 1 1/2 tsp. olive oil and 1 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper for the chili oil.

- 8 ounces uncooked vermicelli
- 1 1/2 tsp. dark sesame oil
- 1 1/2 cups cubed dell, lower-salt turkey breast
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions
- 1 1/2 tsp. chili oil
- 2 cups snow peas, diagonally halved crosswise
- 1 1/2 cups red bell pepper strips
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup low-salt chicken broth
- 3 Tbsp. low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp. reduced-fat peanut butter
- 2 Tbsp. chopped dry roasted peanuts

Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt and fat. Drain and set aside.

Heat sesame oil in a large oon-

stick skillet over medium heat. Add turkey and green onions; stir-fry 1 minute. Remove from skillet. Set aside; keep warm.

Heat chili oil in skillet over medium high heat. Add snow peas, bell pepper and garlic; saute 3 minutes. Combine broth, soy sauce and peanut butter; stir well with a whisk. Add to skillet; cook 2 minutes, stirring frequently. Stir in turkey mixture; remove from heat.

Combine pasta and turkey mixture; toss well. Divide evenly among 4 shallow bowls; top each serving with 1 1/2 tsp. peanuts. (Serves 4.)

(Cooking Light)

Phyllis's Notebook

A Pregnant Pause

By PHYLLIS GLAZER

As most people know, pregnancy is not the time to start experimenting with pain relievers, nausea controllers and other drugs, especially when there are natural ways to deal with the discomforts imposed upon us by nature. Best of all, you already have many of these natural remedies in your own kitchen.

In Ayurvedic medicine, which was developed in India some 5,000 years ago and is the oldest known medical system in the world, herbs and spices play a major role in medical treatments.

According to Svarup Verma, an Ayurvedic medical practitioner, a traditional treatment to counter morning sickness is made by boiling 1/2 tsp. of powdered cardamom with a cup of water. Wait till the cardamom settles to the bottom, or strain and drink.

Some conventional medical practitioners also recommend taking 50 mg. of vitamin B6 daily to counteract nausea. (B6 can be bought at pharmacies or health-food stores.)

Differnet foods also have a profound affect on nausea, so it is wise to pay attention to what you eat and the way your stomach reacts to it. Hunger also may play a part: one way to avoid this is by eating several small meals a day rather than the traditional three big ones. Some women find that eating rice crackers, whole wheat crackers or raisins before going to sleep (or early in the morning) helps avoid morning sickness the next day.

If you suffer from heartburn, try to avoid overeating. You also might want to try eating proteins

and carbohydrates at separate meals to make digestion easier. Avoid tight-fitting clothes and make sure to eat slowly and chew well.

Some women find that fatty foods, highly seasoned foods, chocolate, hot dogs and prepared meats, coffee, carbonated drinks and chewing gum (particularly on an empty stomach) may induce heartburn. Rather than use the traditional baking-soda-in-water cure, which should be avoided during pregnancy, try a cup of chamomile tea (sweetened with honey if desired) to calm the digestive system.

If you suffer from extreme tiredness during pregnancy, eat a diet rich in proteins and complex carbohydrates. Ayurvedic practitioners also encourage the consumption of freshly steamed asparagus to help counteract exhaustion.

Constipation is a widespread problem among pregnant women, especially those who are taking iron pills. The easiest and most important way to counteract it is by eating fiber-rich foods like whole grains (whole wheat products, barley, oatmeal) and legumes (peas). Although beans are nutritious, some people find them hard to digest, so it is best to start with or concentrate on the "light" ones like brown lentils, orange lentils, mung beans and split peas. Raisins and prunes also help, plus raisins are a good source of iron.

Of course, unpeeled fruits and vegetables are particularly important during pregnancy, both for their fiber content and vitamins.

If your digestive system still needs a little urging, avoid laxatives and try soaking flax seeds in hot water for 5 minutes and then

drinking the water with the seeds. Flax seeds are also an excellent source of Omega 3 fatty acids.

Avoid carbonated drinks that contain artificial additives (including diet drinks), and have water spiked with lemon, mint or your favorite herb.

Another common problem is gas. Several ways to avoid it are by eating slowly, avoiding (or trying to) tension and eliminating onions, cauliflower, broccoli, fried foods and very sweet foods. (If you don't want to give up foods like broccoli and cabbage, eat them with light vegetables or fish rather than meat.)

Since everyone has a different reaction to specific foods, pay attention to your body and see what foods have what results. Using spices like cumin and coriander in your cooking, also will help the digestion of hard to digest foods.

An Ayurvedic remedy for gas is fennel tea (which also is given to infants suffering from colic). Mix 1/2 tsp. fennel seeds, 1/2 tsp. cumin seeds and 1/2 tsp. coriander seeds with boiling water, steep and then drink it like a tea.

For an alternative to salt, not only pregnant women will enjoy the following.

NELSON'S LOW SODIUM SESAME SALT

- 5 Tbsp. brewer's yeast flakes (not powder)
- 4 Tbsp. sesame seeds, crushed
- 1/2 Tbsp. salt
- 1/2 Tbsp. powdered ginger. (Optional)

Mix ingredients together and sprinkle over salad, cooked vegetables or rice.

Howard L. Puckett

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Absalom, Absalom: Promenade to the past

Weekender Travel

Day Tripper

By HAIM SHAPIRO

True - Absalom's Pillar is out, by all accounts, the tomb of that rebellious son of King David, but the story is too good to forgo just because of an insignificant detail like that.

Handsome, well-spoken and one of David's oldest sons, Absalom apparently feared - with good reason - that the king would choose the son of Bathsheba, his favorite, as his heir. In an attempt to seize the throne before his father's death, Absalom mounted a revolt that was so successful that David had to flee east of the Jordan, together with those faithful to him.

In an account graphically described in Samuel II, Chapter 15, the two fought a final battle in the forest of Ephraim. Absalom, fleeing, was caught up by his thick hair in the branches of a tree and killed at the orders of Joab, despite David's order to spare his son's life.

David's lament for his errant son is particularly moving. It is one that any parent, torn between love and the need to impose discipline, can understand.

According to one medieval account, Jerusalem's residents were in the habit of bringing their children to curse Absalom's Pillar and throw stones at it, to learn the lesson of what becomes of a child who defies the commandment to honor his parents.

All this came to mind when the East Jerusalem Development Company recently inaugurated a promenade. It overlooks the so-called Absalom's Pillar and the other Hasmonean tombs in the Kidron Valley, at the foot of the Mount of Olives, namely the Tomb of Hezekiah and the tomb known as Pharaoh's daughter's.

In contrast to these tombs, there is another, the Tomb of the Sons of Hezir. The name of this tomb, which looks like a sort of portico hewn out of the rock, is based upon an inscription found there identifying it with the family of Hezir, a priestly family mentioned in the Bible.

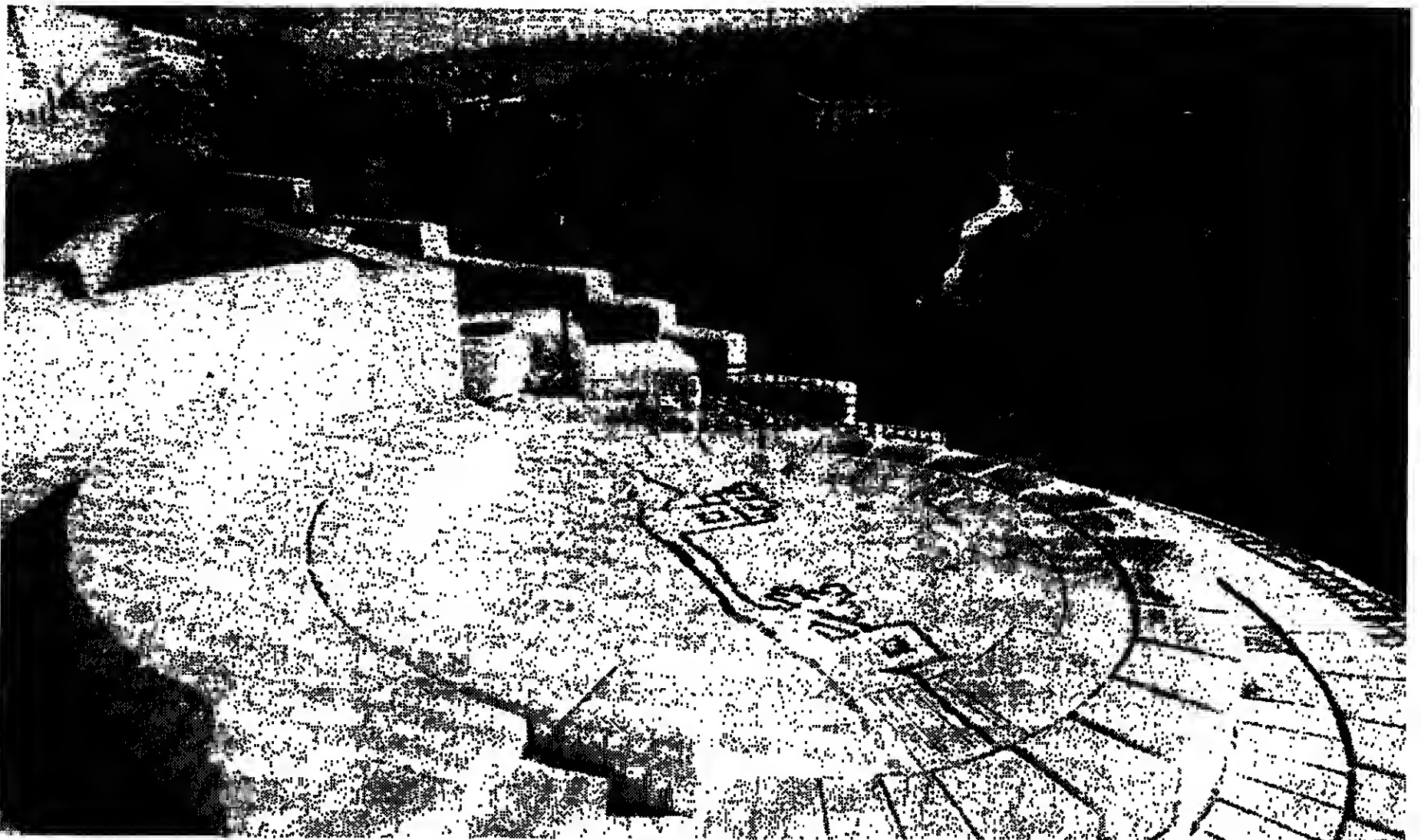
A handsome stone podium has a sketch map indicating the tombs, together with churches and other landmarks in the area. In addition to the sign pointing to "Absalom's Pillar Observatory" is a mysterious sign indicating "The Last Way." Following the sign, I found that it led to a path skirting the ancient Jewish cemetery and leading to Gethsemane.

On inquiry, I learned that this was the path taken by Jesus when he left the Cenacle on Mt. Zion, the site of the Last Supper, and went down to Gethsemane, where he spent his last night as a free man. The path is also called "The Road to Captivity."

Besides the observatory, there is another lookout point on the other side of the road, shutting the Moslem cemetery. Although some of the sites in the valley are obscured, this is a much finer vantage point because of its elevation.

The No. 1 Egged bus to the Western Wall passes the site, and there is a stop nearby. By car, one must either drive through the Jewish Quarter and past the Western Wall, turning left outside the Dung Gate or drive around the wall of the Old City from the north, turning onto the side road to the Dung Gate after passing the Lions' Gate. There are a few parking places at the site. It is also possible to walk up from Gethsemane along the Last Path.

Although I last visited the area in the morning, I would strongly suggest that in the summer, at least, you go there in the afternoon, when the sun has set behind the Temple Mount. And as any Jerusalemite can tell you, stay away from the area on Monday and Thursday mornings, when the many bar mitzva celebrations at the Western Wall make traffic impossible.



(Above) Absalom's Pillar observation point displays a sketch map of area tombs, landmarks and churches; (below) the recently inaugurated promenade overlooks Absalom's Pillar and the other Hasmonean tombs in the Kidron Valley. (Ariel Jerolimski)



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Bridge

Leading out of turn

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

North dealer
North-South vulnerable

North (Lloyd)
♠ 10 8
♥ K 9 2
♦ K Q J 9 6
♣ Q 8 7

West East
♠ Q 2 ♠ A J 9 7 6 4 3
♥ Q J 8 6 4 ♥ 7 5 3
♦ 7 5 ♦ 10
♣ K 10 9 5 ♣ 3 2

South (Burgess)
♠ K 5
♥ A 10
♦ A 8 4 3 2
♣ A 1 6 4

West North East South
pass 1 NT 2 ♣ 3 NT
(all pass)

Opening lead: ♠ 2 out of turn

The first player to bid the trump suit, or notrump, of the final contract becomes the declarer. The hand to his left makes the opening lead and partner puts down the dummy. This is the correct procedure.

Sometimes, by accident, the hand to the right of declarer makes the opening lead and this is called "a lead out of turn." When this happens in a tournament, the director is called, and he reads from the rule book, presenting declarer with three options: accept the lead out of turn and continue; accept the lead out of turn, put down your hand and your partner becomes declarer; refuse the lead, whereupon the card becomes a penalty card or it gets picked up and you may force or forbid the lead of that suit from the correct opening lead.

The Machlin Rule, originated by the late American director Jerry Machlin, states that declarer should always allow the lead out of turn (first or second options) on the theory that if a player is stupid enough to lead out of turn, he's likely to have made the wrong lead as well.

Application of the Machlin Rule can lead to some outrageous situations. On one occasion, a lead was made out of turn, the declarer accepted it, and, indeed, it was the wrong lead.

At the end of the hand, the opening leader protested to the director that he received the wrong information about the bidding.

"But you led out of turn," answered the director. "Ah," the opening leader replied, "but with the correct information, I might have found the winning lead out of turn."

Today the lead out of turn was triumphant, but for a subtle reason. It comes from last summer's National Open Teams in Adelaide, Australia. North opened the bidding with a weak notrump (11-14) and East overcalled two clubs, which showed a one-suited overcall in any suit. (A two-spade overcall would have shown spades plus a minor suit.) South doubled two clubs, and when the bidding returned to East, he revealed his spade suit. South now bid three notrump and West led the deuce of spades.

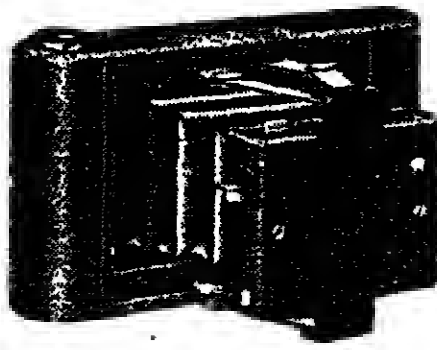
This was a lead out of turn. It was also a strange lead, because the normal card led from honor-doubleton is the honor (the queen). The director was called to the table and he explained the aforementioned options to the North player (the one who was supposed to be declarer).

In this case, South was a famous Australian champion, Stephen Burgess, and North (Ms. Lloyd) was a lesser player, so North chose option 2. She accepted the lead out of turn and put down her hand as the dummy, allowing the expert to declare. Burgess played the 8 from dummy and East made the excellent play of the 9, which forced the king. Burgess now had nine top tricks: one spade, two hearts, five diamonds, and one club.

Nevertheless, overtricks count, so he ran his five diamond tricks and watched his opponents discard. West threw the five of clubs and two small hearts. East threw a low heart, a club and two spades. East was now down to four spades to the ace, but Burgess was sure he was down to three spades, because the other two spades, by inference, were in the West hand. After all, West had led the deuce of spades, showing at least three of them, hadn't he?

Burgess figured that it was safe to take a club finesse through East. If East held the king of clubs, Burgess would score a number of extra tricks.

And if the club finesse lost, only three spades could be cashed, so the contract was safe, or so he thought. When a club to the jack lost to the king, West produced the queen of spades and East overtook with the ace to cash four spade tricks to set the contract.



On Camera

The public display of collections



By DAVID BRAUNER

"Photographic exhibits are the theater of photography, acts of showmanship designed for an audience..."

-Life Library of Photography

As only an occasionally working photographer, I can hardly afford to amass original exhibition prints. Instead, I collect a much more modest form of ephemera, and one that's absolutely free. I save invitations to photo shows. "Beauty Is a Promise of Happiness," "Turning Over" and "Echoes" are some of the intriguing titles from photographic exhibitions in my own collection. The earliest exhibition of the photographic process was mounted in Paris in 1839, the same year photography was invented. Strangely, the exhibitor was not Louis Daguerre, the inventor, but one Hippolyte Bayard, a French Finance Ministry clerk who pioneered producing images on paper.

In 1859, the French Photographic Society contributed to a massive fine-arts exhibition held at Paris's Palace of Industry. With 20,000 people attending and highly favorable reviews, the photo wing was a tremendous success.

One photograph that won special acclaim was James Graham's "Voyage to Jerusalem." Graham is mentioned in the notes of his artist friend William Holman

Hunt (1827-1910): "Graham was to photograph, Sim was to shoot, and I to draw when our destination [the Dead Sea, 1854] was reached."

In more recent memory, "The Family of Man" exhibition that opened in January 1955, at New York's Museum of Modern Art, remains a landmark in concept, size and technique. Poet Carl Sandburg set the tone of the show in his prologue to the catalog: "A camera testament, a drama of the grand canyon of humanity, an epic woven of fun, mystery and holiness - here is the Family of Man."

Photographer Edward Steichen, the moving force behind the exhibition, was ahead of his time when he wrote, "[The] photographs [are] concerned with man in relation to his environment, to the beauty and richness of the earth he has inherited and what he has done with his inheritance - the good and great things, the stupid and destructive things."

"The Family of Man" attracted a deluge of one million submissions from photographers from all over the world. Over a three-year period, Steichen and his five-member team winnowed the exhibition down to 503 images from 68 countries. The show took up 2,440 linear meters of wall (and ceiling!) space and cost \$111,000 - a fortune in 1955.

The thought and care given to the presentation of the exhibit is instructive. All the pictures were displayed without borders to

emphasize the idea of equality and brotherhood among humankind, as well as to unify the show. juxtapositions of lightness and darkness, horizontal and vertical shapes, and thematic groupings, all contributed to the successful display.

The show, in various versions, traveled around the States and the world for the next eight years, and was seen by millions. Unfortunately, the original prints were effectively destroyed in an uprising in Beirut in 1958.

Another extravaganza that photo historians will undoubtedly rank among the most important events of this century was "And They Left Germany... They Had To - 1928-1997." Held this year at the Rheinisches Landesmuseum in Bonn, the display included 603 images by 171 German exile photographers (see *The Jerusalem Post*, August 18).

Jerusalem photographer Marli Shamir, whose work was shown in the Bonn exhibit, felt that its overwhelming size made it impossible to take everything in. This is often the case with huge retrospectives.

Thankfully, most photo shows are much more manageable and, indeed, intimate solo or group affairs. The participants often spend years, and sometimes a lifetime, gathering and/or creating images. Much expense is invested in time and money to print, mount, frame and hang each item.

Captions play an important role, and the title of the exhibit is



(Left) Unblemished walls and soft lighting complement the photographer's art at Erwin Schenkelbach's recent show "Where Time Has Stopped"; (above) an eye-stopping image at the show. (Photos by David Brauner)

crucial. A well-wrought title summarizes the show's theme. Many titles refer to the fact that it is a photography exhibit, for instance, "Towards a Bigger Picture," "Double Exposure," and "From a Different Angle."

Photo shows are displayed most naturally in galleries and museums where unblemished walls and soft lighting comple-

ment the photographer's art. But the delights of photography are equally at home in the most unlikely places. I once participated in a group exhibit honoring the aged that was displayed first in an abandoned railroad station and later in a disused store window. The show made wonderful use of otherwise dead spaces.

Chess

A triple gambit

By NIGEL SHORT

The sixth Comunidad de Madrid tournament held recently was won by Veselin Topalov on tie-break. After an excellent start, the Bulgarian appeared poised to easily capture first place. But after some indecisive plays, he allowed Alexei Shirov to catch him on the finishing line: an accident, however, which merely deferred triumph.

Disappointingly, I ended halfway down the table, but I caused some amusement by employing the King's Gambit three times.

The ultra-solid Armenian, Vladimir Akopian, often psychologically ill-prepared for street-fighting, suffered his only defeat at the hands of this primitive opening. When I gunned down Jeon Piket for the first time in my life, in the game featured below, I mistakenly began to believe that the King's Gambit might even have objective merits. Alas my illusions were shattered when I was butchered by Shirov in the penultimate round. I guess I should not have pushed my luck.

White: Short
Black: Piket
Madrid, 1997

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 Be7. It is 291 years since the Scottish historian Alexander Cunningham invented this gritty defense. No doubt he would be pleased that it still has plenty of mileage. 4.Nc3, more provocative than the regular 4.Bc4 which sagely vacates the f1 square for the king.

4...Bb4+ 5.Kc2 d5. The logical way to exploit the ridiculous position of the monarch. Nonetheless, material equality is reestablished and White obtains a proud pair of center pawns.

6.Nxd5 Nf6 7.Nxf6 Qxf6 8.d4 Bg4 9.Qd2 Ne6 10.c3 0-0-0? Being somewhat unfamiliar with the position, my opponent was spending great chunks of time. Probably this move is already the decisive mistake. It was necessary to follow the theoretical recommendation of 10...g5 11.Kd1 0-0-0 12.Kc2 Bxf3 13.gx3 although with this two bishops and strong center White stands well. 11.Qxf4 Qe6 12.Kc3!

Black (Piket) to play

White (Short)

Steinitzian and incredibly strong! White has two threats: the direct 13.Nxh4 and the more subtle 13.Bc4. It is impossible to answer these moves in an adequate manner. So after an enormous pause, Piket correctly decided to mix it in the hope that I would crack up. It very nearly worked.

12...g5! 13.Nxg5 Bxg5 14.Qxg5 f5 15.h3! A superb little move. I side-stepped a nasty trap in 15.e5? Nxg5 16.dxe5 Qb6+ 17.Kf4 Qf2 mate, which would have been distinctly humiliating. 15...Nxh4! 15...Qxe4+ 16.Kf2 Bd1 17.Qf4 Qc2+ 18.Qd2 Qa4 19.Bd3 was utterly hopeless. 16.cxd4 Rxd4 17.hxg4 Rxe4+ 18.Kf2 f6g4. Piket has thrown the kitchen sink at me, but to little avail. He was also horrendously short of time at this moment with only a minute and a half left for his remaining 22 moves.

Two pieces ahead and with plenty of time, I was trembling uncontrollably for reasons I do not exactly understand. It was not long before the blunder came.

19.Rh6 Rf8- 20.Kg1?? I had seen that 20.Kg3 Qf7 21.Be3 Rg8 22.Qc5 b6 23.Qc3 was the end of the excitement, but I became obsessed with the idea that Black might be able to give an (imaginary) check with his queen on the b8-h2 diagonal. I decided to play the "safer" move. 20...Rxf1+ 21.Kxf1 Re1+ 22.Kf2 Qe2+?? 22...Re2+ 23.Kg3 Rg2+ 24.Kxg2 Qe2+ secures a draw by perpetual check. My opponent's clock had finally caught up with him. 23.Kg3 Qd3+ 24.Kxg4. In view of the material disparity, Black resigned.



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Canning fragrance

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Jean-Paul Gaultier is doing it. Faconnable is doing it. Paco Rabanne is doing it, as are Issey Miyake and Calvin Klein. Now Liz Claiborne has decided to "can" her fragrance as well.

Whereas Gaultier chose the type of tin used to can fruit and vegetables, Miyake went in for a more sophisticated image: a reusable silver spray can of men's eau de toilette which resembles a miniature cigarette case. It comes with a larger 75-ml. bottle packed in a transparent plastic box. The set is priced at NIS 249.

Faconnable and Claiborne opted for the kind of tins that were once used for talcum powder. Claiborne has produced two new fragrances under the name Curve. The men's fragrance, with its wood-spice, aftershave scent, comes in a cognac-style bottle enclosed in a pale gold can. The sweet, light, almost buoyant women's fragrance comes in a slim, elegant silver-blue bottle encased in a silver-blue can.

The women's eau de toilette sells for NIS 229 for 50 ml. and NIS 299 for 100 ml. The male of the species pays a lot less for aromatic enhancement - NIS 199 for 75 ml. and NIS 249 for NIS 125 ml.

If you look around the perfume counters at your local pharmacy or cosmetics store, you will notice that most of the men's fragrances are more affordable than the women's. Of course there's no reason why a woman can't wear a so-called men's fragrance if it is compatible with her body chemistry. Calvin Klein put a spoke in that taboo when he produced unisex perfumes such as cK Just Be.

The idea these days is to exude the sweet smell of success. And these days,

sweet means the inclusion of ingredients such as vanilla - lots of it. Angel Encantateur by Thierry Mugler contains not only vanilla but also chocolate, caramel and honey. It's intended for women but would probably be more intriguing on men. Anyone who purchases at least NIS 280 worth of Angel products at any April store will receive a comprehensive range of Angel samples, plus a star pin, which is Angel's cachet.

April, Superpharm, Hamashbir and other outlets are offering pre-Rosh Hashana discounts of 15 to 50 percent on all fragrance and beauty products.

Anyone looking for low-budget products with an upscale allure should go sniffing through the Yardley range at April. Most Yardley fragrances are available for under NIS 100. They include distinctive aromas such as Mimosa, Orchid, English Lavender, Heliotrope and Tea Rose in eau de toilettes, talcs, soaps, body lotions and body sprays.

Hint of the Week: Never buy a fragrance for personal use without trying it first. How it smells on a strip of cardboard or in the air is quite different from how it will smell on you, your mother, your uncle or your daughter. Now that testers are so widely available in stores, spray the fragrance on your wrist and give it time to set. Try not to use anything else in the interim so that you won't confuse your olfactory senses.



NEWS

in brief

Susskin trial begins

Tatiana Susskin, accused of posting leaflets in Hebron that depicted the Prophet Mohammed as a pig, acknowledged yesterday at the opening of her trial in Jerusalem District Court that she had made the leaflets, but denied that she had posted them. Susskin also said that she had thrown a stone at a car to defend herself and not with the intent of injuring anyone. The trial will continue on October 8.

Har-Shefi trial opens today

The trial of Margalit Har-Shefi, 22, of Beit El, opens today in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. She is accused of knowing that Yigal Amir planned to assassinate prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and doing nothing to stop him and of providing him with assistance. General Security Service agents are expected to testify today.

One killed, two injured in traffic accidents

A 28-year-old Public Works Department employee died at Tzrifin's Assaf Harofeh Hospital yesterday afternoon, several hours after being hit by a car. He had been taking measurements at the Ramle-Lod junction, when a car swerved into him. The driver, 22, was arrested and later released on bail.

Two pedestrians also were seriously injured in a hit-and-run accident in Ramle.

Science minister postpones US trip

Science Minister Michael Eitan has postponed a planned trip to the US aimed at importing information technology that will make government services more accessible via the Internet. He did so yesterday at the request of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said Eitan must deal with pressing matters at home.

The ministry spokeswoman said the trip's indefinite postponement will not delay the beginning of work on implementing information technologies in the government. Eitan was scheduled to leave in the next few days to meet dozens of information experts in the US government and with National Aeronautics and Space Administration director Daniel Goldin about the possibility of sending an Israeli astronaut into space.

Special Knesset session called

Meretz has collected the signatures of the 30 MKs needed to call a special Knesset session on the government's economic policy. The session will be held next week.

Arafat shuts down Islamist student union

The Palestinian Authority has shut down the headquarters of an Islamist student union in the PLO-ruled Gaza Strip, the union said yesterday.

The Islamic Bloc Youth Union, which represents thousands of students affiliated with the militant Islamic group Hamas, blasted the closure carried out by Palestinian security forces on Tuesday night.

"We in the Islamic Bloc record our extreme astonishment at this dangerous act," the union said in a statement. "This step is an unjustified violation of the prevailing law. It reinforces a state of chaos and is an illegitimate interference by the military in civic, union, and student life," the statement said.

IDF forms cost-saving plan

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Preparing for a battle of a different kind, the army plans to introduce reforms to fight the funding crisis brought on by the pending Defense Ministry budget cuts. Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna yesterday presented "the Spring of Youth" plan to

totally reorganize non-combat IDF units. The plan, initiated in 1996, concentrates on transferring authority from the general staff to smaller units, giving divisional branch commanders more authority on how to run their units, Vilna said. In addition, a total change in management will allow construction,

driving lessons, computer training, medical care and storage to be transferred to the civilian market. Vilna also stressed the need for a general trimming down of the IDF. However, he pointed out that combat units will be exempt from the reorganization plans. "It is not enough to be efficient, the IDF structure and Home

Command must be more effective in order to achieve productivity in the combat units, the heart of the army," he said. In an interview on Army Radio, Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran said the budget cuts would impose a heavy toll and additional funds are needed in order to carry out long-term plans.

Elite suffers record NIS 87m. loss

Elite, the country's leading sweets and coffee producer, posted a record net loss of NIS 87.1 million in the first half of the year, the company announced yesterday. Company executives attributed the losses to various expenses stemming from the activities of various European-based companies with which Elite is associated.

Excluding those one-time costs, the Ramat Gan-based company said its balances would indicate a net profit of NIS 34m., 40.5 percent more than its earnings during the comparable period the previous year. According to Elite managing director Amikam Cohen, these profits reflect the company's reorganized activities. Last year Elite was compelled to dispose of sev-

eral plants which it had opened up across Europe earlier this decade. Those included two operations (in Spain and France) which were sold and one in Germany, which was shut down due to heavy losses. But the company still maintains a wide presence across Europe, from Poland to Belgium, and has recently set up a plant in Romania.

Jerusalem Post Staff



A sweet New Year

A beekeeper from Yad Mordechai gives out honey to children. Yad Mordechai workers are dispensing more than 500 kg. of honey to kindergarten and pre-school students around the country in preparation for Rosh Hashana.

(Yael Reif)

Hizbullah confirms negotiations over exchange under way

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said yesterday that the group was negotiating the exchange of Lebanese prisoners held by Israel for body parts from some of the 12 naval commandos killed last week in Lebanon.



Sheikh Nasrallah (Reuters)

"Negotiations started a few days ago," Nasrallah said at his headquarters in Beirut's southern suburbs. "The channel which is mediating at the moment is the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross). We have not closed the door on other channels. We prefer that details of this operation remain behind closed doors for the best interest of captives, prisoners and the deal as a whole," he said in an interview. Israel holds an estimated 50 Lebanese prisoners plus the 125 at

Khiam prison in the security zone. The ICRC head in Lebanon, Jean Jacques Fressard, met Hizbullah officials at the headquarters yesterday. Hizbullah said in a later statement, Fressard delivered a message from Israel to Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri regarding the human remains on Tuesday. "According to my information, the biggest number of remains and body parts is with the Islamic resistance (Hizbullah)," Nasrallah said when asked about reports other forces also had pieces of the bodies. "There are the remains of a number of soldiers," he said. "There are a number of feet, which clearly indicates that the remains do not belong to one soldier."

Report: Hizbullah leader was target of commando raid

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - The ill-fated operation in which 12 naval commandos were killed last Friday was aimed at the capture or death of Khalil Harb, leader of Hizbullah's military wing, according to the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*. The success of the operation would have represented a setback for Hizbullah and a boost for Shayetet 13, which undertook the operation, said the newsletter, which reported that the unit's last "real action" was the assassination of Abu Jihad in Tunis in April 1988. The newsletter, which is regarded as having particularly good informants in Lebanon, asked how the operation could have gone so wrong for Israel. "Hizbullah," it said, "must have received a

tip-off. It might have been from the tip-off man who guided the Israelis in their successful attack on Kfour, who might subsequently have been 'turned.' The Israelis might well have believed him." Kfour is the isolated Lebanese hilltop village where the Golani Brigade's reconnaissance unit killed five Hizbullah members including two leaders, last month. The newsletter said Hizbullah "seems to have acted skillfully. Its fighters were in place and waiting, their mortars aimed at the gates to the banana grove [where the Israelis were ambushed]. Everything else was made to look authentic and security was tight. "One of the Israelis' Lebanese collaborators on shore, who guided the commandos in, was unaware of the fate that awaited them," continued *Foreign Report*. "The

commandos' target remained in his nearby house as if nothing was happening. "Islamic Resistance's best fighters were only on stand-by until a few hours before the operation began, when they were ordered to take up position for the ambush." In a related development, a senior Hizbullah official told another London-based newsletter that his organization had been contacted by "two international parties" which proposed an exchange of the remains of commandos for Lebanese detainees. Speaking to the newsletter by phone from Beirut, Hizbullah political council member and information chief Nayef Krayyem told *Mideast Mirror* that contacts on a possible exchange are still at an early stage and their success depends on the

Israeli response. Krayyem declined to identify the "international parties," but he made clear the US was not one of them, saying his group refuses to talk to Washington. "He said contacts are still focusing on the mechanism of negotiations" for an exchange, and any talks would have to take their course. Asked if Hizbullah would demand the release of Sheikh Abdelkarim Obaid and Mustafa Dirani, leader of a militant group allied with Hizbullah, who were taken from their homes by Israeli commandos in 1989 and 1994 respectively, Krayyem said it is too early to reveal what Hizbullah would demand. Krayyem stressed that Hizbullah would seek the release of detainees and would not settle for the bodies of guerrillas.

TO THE SECRETARY ALBRIGHT:

September 13, 1997 - 4 Years since the signing of Oslo agreements on the White House lawn.

The United States must continue to advance the historic process which is the only channel of hope to end the 100 year Israeli - Palestinian conflict.

PEACE NOW

We welcome your efforts!!! We need your efforts!!!

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WEATHER

Haifa 14-28
Tiberias 17-22
Afula 15-31
Samarra 16-27
Tel Aviv 19-27
Jerusalem 16-27
Beer Sheva 16-30
Dead Sea 28-33

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	10	16	cloudy
Berlin	11	18	cloudy
Bombay	28	34	clear
Cairo	21	30	clear
Chicago	15	22	cloudy
Copenhagen	11	18	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	17	cloudy
Geneva	10	17	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	30	clear
London	12	19	cloudy
Los Angeles	23	34	clear
Madrid	19	27	clear
Moscow	11	18	cloudy
New York	14	21	cloudy
Nice	20	28	clear
Paris	16	24	cloudy
Rome	18	26	clear
Stockholm	11	18	cloudy
Sydney	11	21	clear
Tokyo	23	31	clear
Toronto	11	18	cloudy
Vienna	12	19	clear
Zurich	10	17	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the 8 of spades, queen of hearts, 8 of diamonds, and 9 of clubs, and the king of spades, 7 of hearts, jack of diamonds, and queen of clubs.

New mayor for Kiryat Yam

The Kiryat Yam Local Council elected Acting Mayor Benny Steikol (Labor) to replace Mayor Shmuel Siso (Likud) last night. Siso resigned after being appointed Consul-General in New York. Haifa District Court denied a request to issue a temporary restraining order to prevent the council from meeting to select a new mayor.

Matza: Health funds may no longer decide what they offer

By JUDY SEGEL and DAVID HARRIS

By an agreement reached in the marathon budget debate, health funds may no longer decide unilaterally which basket of services they offer.

Yehoshua Matza said yesterday. Matza also told reporters that the proposed budget may cost the public an extra NIS 1 billion in taxes, unless the Treasury covers deficits as required by the National Health Insurance Law. The government's late-night vote on budget changes this week did not even begin to deal with an estimated NIS 1.2 billion deficit in the health system, but only with the 1998 budget, said Cabi Bin-Nun, the Health Ministry's deputy director-general for budgeting and financing. In the marathon negotiations, Matza overcame Treasury demands to let the four health funds charge what they like for certain services, which would in effect permit them to set their own service basket. But Matza may eventually be forced to shrink the overall health basket to cover the system's deficit. Matza has not decided what to eliminate from the basket or to charge extra for. He mentioned the possibility of charging patients for some over-the-counter medicines, limiting the number of in-vitro fertilization treatments to which a family is entitled, and charging for visits to physicians. "I will try to protect the basic basket of services," Matza said, "but health fund members will, unfortunately, have to pay an extra 'head tax' for certain services." Matza said that the budget

Hollander: Civil service salary spread unfair

By DAVID HARRIS

The difference in pay between two people doing exactly the same job in government can be as high as 100 percent, Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander said yesterday. Hollander also expressed his displeasure at the lack of women in top public posts, said the commission is working to encourage early retirement and suggested there is room to close some government ministries. While Hollander doesn't have the authority to comment on the overall government wage bill, he said he is very concerned by discrepancies within the service. He described the gap in wages between individuals as "unreasonable" and is currently working alongside Wages and Labor Agreements director Yossi Kukic to rectify the situation. While women now comprise some 50% of the 50,000 government ministry employees, they only make up 10% of senior civil servants. Hollander said this was an unfair position and current employment law attempts to correct the issue. For example, if a man and a woman apply for a job, having the same qualifications, the employer is bound to hire the woman. In general, the average woman in the service possesses more

skills than the average man, Hollander added. With regard to minorities, the civil service is annually recruiting 50 people from the non-Jewish communities, furthermore at least 19 people of Ethiopian origin are being hired this year and during 1998 and 1999. The service is employing too many people, continued Hollander, whom is responsible for implementing the government policy of reducing the size of the service by 2% during this year. "I can't say how many workers are unnecessary," he said. In addition to natural wastage, Hollander is encouraging early retirement. "This is proving to be problematic," he said, pointing to the expense of compensation packages and opposition from the Histadrut. "You don't just throw people out like possessions." Hollander also criticized the use of temporary staff through employment agencies. In addition to the 50,000 civil servants, there are 5,000 people employed through temp agencies. As part of the ongoing privatization and rationalization process in the public sector, Hollander is presently compiling a list of state functions that can either be hived off to the private sector or abolished.